

Gender as Social Structure

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Knowledge From where? Standpoint Analysis

19th Century positivism

- Facts speak for themselves
- Scientist objective and neutral

Radical Constructivism/ Post-Modernism

- All is narrative, science is just one more story

Standpoint Analyses

- World exists independent of observations
- Knower is socially constructed
- Social location privileges kinds of knowledge
- Variety of standpoints increases quality of knowledge

Sprague, Joey, 2005. *Feminist Methodologies for Critical Researchers - Bridging Differences*. AltaMira Press, CA

The book cover features a black and white optical illusion of a spiral that appears to rotate and warp as the viewer's perspective changes. The spiral is composed of concentric, slightly offset rings that create a sense of depth and movement. The text is overlaid on this pattern in white and red.

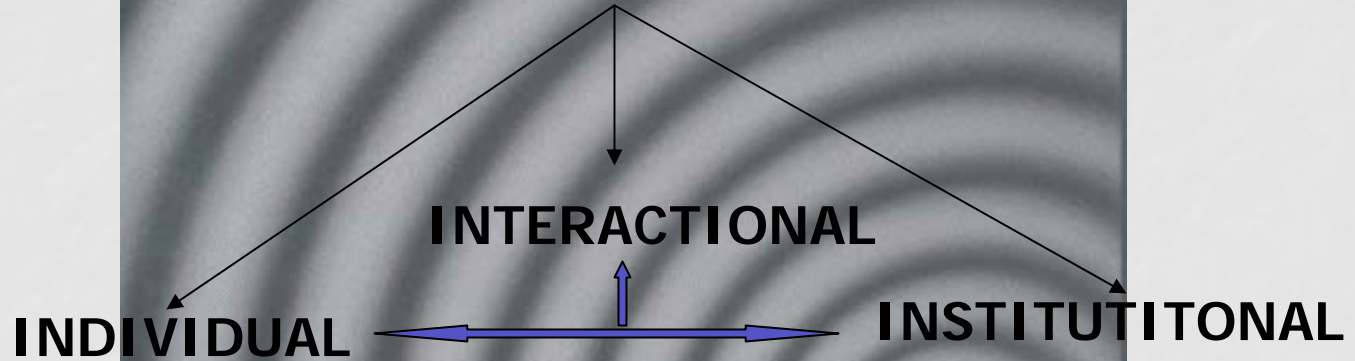
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Gender Vertigo

American families in transition

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Gender Vertigo

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Table 1. Dimensions of Gender Structure, by Illustrative Social Processes

Dimensions of the Gender Structure			
	Individual Level	Interactional Cultural Expectations	Institutional Domain
Social Processes ^a	Socialization Internalization Identity Work Construction of self	Status Expectations Cognitive Bias Othering Trading power for patronage Altercasting	Organizational practices Legal regulations Distribution of resources Ideology

^a These are e.g.s of social processes that may help explain the gender structure on each dimension. They are meant to be illustrative and not a complete list of all possible social processes or causal mechanisms.

Risman Barbara, 2004. "Gender as a Social Structure: Theory Wrestling with Activism", Gender & Society Vol. 18, No. 4, pp. 429-450