
Gender Studies

Student's Name
Institution



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Tensions between transgender activism and the politics of drag culture. What are some of the differences between the trans-community and the drag community (e.g., performance vs. identity, issues of the body)? How can both be beneficial in rethinking gender norms? Explain your answers.

Gender identity is a highly controversial issue in America, and it includes an individual's perceived or actual sex, individual identity, appearance, and behavior. For a long time, there have existed tensions between politics of drag culture and transgender activism. While the politics of drag culture involve fighting for the rights of men who dress and act with some sort of an exaggerated femininity, the politics of transgender activism involve fighting for the creation of a recognizable and independent structure that with a focus on transgender issues. Many tend to think of transgender as drag queens. Drag culture is also associated more with men or gay culture than with women. This difference forms the basis for the tension that exists between the politics of transgender and drag politics. As Tran's issues continue to fill media headlines and social justice, internal tensions have intensified. While a person from the drag culture can go out and have fun on weekend and on Monday go to their work places, a person from transgender community may not have a job attend to on Monday.

Differences between the trans-community and the Drag community exists on different forms. Differences on performance vs. identity involve the confusion of these two terminologies and using them interchangeably to mean each other at the same time. It also involves the intentional use of labels and at times insults for entirely different groups of people in a rhetorical way to imply that those groups are the same. Another significance difference is that a Drag culture is all about character while a trans-community involves real life people, but cultural media has blurred the distinction. However, both communities are important in the course of rethinking gender norms. The tension and differences between these two groups are essential in that they help us view gender as a dynamic thing and something that will change through generations.

Select a film or television show that depicts an LGBT character. Using your readings, discuss how the character resists and/or reinforces dominant (stereotypical) representations of LGBT persons. How does the character contribute to queer politics (e.g., intersectionality, visibility)? Explain your answer.

In a CNN TV interview, Pastor Jim Swilley, the pastor of a Megachurch in Georgia reveals that he is a gay. In the interview, he reinforces a dominant stereotypical representation of LGBT persons. The pastor confirms that his wife of 21 years had known his sexual orientation since they met. However, due to fear of victimization, he had remained silent. His character contributes to queer personality in that he is

fighting for recognition. He is a pastor, and this helps improve the visibility of gay in the society. He is ready to leave his church if the congregation is not ready to accept him. To show intersectionality for gay people, says that sexual orientation is not a choice that a person makes. He also says that love is about people who care about each other and not about sexual orientation. These are queer politics aimed at subverting the main and naturalized notions of sexuality.

After watching the film Milk, discuss THREE challenges faced by Harvey Milk in becoming and being the first openly gay man elected to office. Include specific people, legal issues, and social issues in your answer.

After becoming and being the first gay man elected into office, Harvey faces several challenges simply because of his sexual orientation. One of the challenges he faces is rejection by fellow members in the Board of supervisors. Dan White terms homosexuality as a sin and this is an attempt to frustrate Harvey Milk. Together with his wife, kids and the American flag, Dan White campaigns against homosexuality. Rejection is a social issue that Milk has to encounter. Another challenge is humiliation. Sean Penn never tried to show Harvey Milk as a hero. Finally, Harvey Milk is assassinated, and this presents both legal but also a political issue. From the film, it is evident that people regard being gay as not being socially acceptable. Although Harvey Milk struggled to get elected for three times, he is assassinated and this could have been politically instigated.