

« Gender intergroup relations »

14-16 May

Course deliverer :

Prof. Nyla Branscombe, Kansas University, USA

In this class we will delve into various theoretical perspectives and empirical research concerning gender as a social category membership. We will consider this social category as one instance of an intergroup relationship in which the groups differ in status and power. Although other group memberships of a hierarchical nature will be considered during the course, we will primarily focus on gender because it is a category membership that is relevant to us all and it is one that has a multifaceted role in shaping a variety of behavior. We will begin by considering a bit of the history of research on gender in psychology, but move quickly to the vast landscape of theories and topics studied under the general heading of “Gender Differences and Similarities”. We’ll consider what additional explanatory power emerges from movement away from the question of “are there behavioral differences?” to “Gender as an Intergroup Relationship”. We will ask how group history and the current social context shape gendered experience and behavior, and a variety of social issues related to gender (e.g., stereotype threat, coping with violence and harassment, the ‘body’ problem, intersections with other social categories and culture, responses to interventions aimed at decreasing gender inequality). Our central aim throughout the course will be to illuminate processes of social identity and social change by considering gender as a powerful form of intergroup relations.