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social constructions – the core of our biased and inequitable reality

– Part One –

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Part One of this article – 3,545 words

In a nutshell – 41 words

Social constructions are a constellation of social and cultural ideologies and convictions that have created a subjective reality. These include gender, male supremacy, race, religion, disability, competition, beauty, and ethnic identity. Without social constructions there would be no marginalization nor othering.

Article abstract – 237 words

Social constructions are the framework of the established order and its myriad traditions. They are the basis of the subjective reality within which we live, and include gender, male supremacy, race, religion, disability, competition, beauty, and ethnic identity. Social constructions and traditions enable othering and oppression without even having to think. Never questioning anything ensures that the sorry current state of affairs remains unchallenged.

When people know that they themselves are not worth much, in order to pathetically compensate for those feelings of inferiority, they tend to disparage, demonize, essentialize, and trivialize *Others*. This also serves to “justify” marginalization, oppression, ruthless exploitation, rape, murder, and in its ultimate expression: genocide. Social constructions make all this claptrap easy for most to swallow.

Part One starts with a few key definitions and distinctions, provides compelling evidence that ***anthropocentrism*** is the original source of all ***othering***, and sets the stage for Parts Two and Three, where the socially-constructed vilification and subordination of women/females, non-white people, Indigenous Peoples, other groups, non-human animals, and nature in general, are exposed for what they truly are: **BS (Bad Sociology, or just plain bullshit.)**

Social constructions are the framework of the established order, and they need to be challenged and ultimately obliterated. What is the alternative? Without social constructions there would be no marginalization, no othering, no oppression, and no exploitation. That sounds egalitarian.

Part Two of this paper (forthcoming) starts with the first rape.

¹ lorero@gmail.com. Similarly to Valerie Jean Solanas, performing “*independent research into men, married women and other degenerates.*” (Solanas, 1965:i).

Keywords for all three parts of this article – 108 concepts

anthropocentrism	female subordination	objectification
beauty	feminism	othering
belief	gender	out-group
bigotry	gender binary	patriarchal society
brutality	gender roles	patriarchy
bullying	gender stereotypes	phallocentrism
chauvinism	genocide	policing
competition	hate	policing of masculinity
cowardice	hate crime	power
critical discourse analysis	human decency	preconceived notions
critical reality awareness	human rights	propaganda
cultural ideology	identity	race
cultural norms	ideology	racism
culture	ignorance	rape
dehumanization	in-group	religion
demonization	inclusion	religious intolerance
disability	inclusiveness	sexism
discrimination	Indigenous Peoples	sexual violence
disparagement	indoctrination	social
dominant group	intersectionality	social constructions
domination	justice	social constructs
egalitarianism	language	social equality
equality	machismo	social justice
equity	male	society
essentialization	male cowardice	sociocultural
established order	male dominance	sociolinguistics
establishment	male fear	sociology
ethics	male privilege	subordinate group
ethnic identity	male supremacy	superstition
fear	man/male	traditions
female	marginalization	trivialization
female disempowerment	microaggressions	Valerie Solanas
female oppression	misogyny	violence
female subjugation	monotheism	white supremacy
	national identity	winning
	nationalism	woman/female
	nature	xenophobia

Unbiased and inclusive definition for the main concept of this paper – 201 words

social constructions² *n-pl*

Meaning:

A constellation of social and cultural ideologies and convictions that have created a subjective reality. These include gender, male supremacy, race, religion, disability, competition, beauty, and ethnic identity.

Insight into fighting bias and exclusion:

No one is born a patriarch, sexist, racist, xenophobe, or otherwise intolerant and othering person. Fearing, hating, demonizing, oppressing, exploiting, and brutalizing *Others* is learned through society, culture, and language. The main culprits are social and cultural constructions, along with the policing of others to make sure that they adhere to whatever is uncritically believed to be “normal.”

Towards a heightened inclusive awareness:

Social constructions do not occur naturally. They exist only because enough people believe them to be an irrefutable reality that can not be questioned. The more people that uncritically believe in them, the more they become entrenched. This process further protects and promotes the established order, since social constructions are its framework. Without social constructions, the established order would crumble, there would be no marginalization nor othering, and an egalitarian society could be attained.

Also called: ***social constructs***.

Research note: employing a critical reality awareness approach to things – 774 words:

In this article, the socially-constructed vilification and subordination of women/females, non-white people, Indigenous Peoples, other groups, non-human animals, and nature in general, are exposed for what they truly are: **BS**³. This is accomplished through the insight that the analytical methods of ***critical discourse analysis***, ***intersectionality***, and ***critical reality awareness*** provide. ***Critical reality awareness*** is a synergistic amalgam of sociocultural and sociolinguistic tools, especially ***critical discourse analysis*** and ***intersectionality***.

Critical reality awareness can be employed to dissect pretty much any set of linguistic, social, cultural, and behavioral variables as a part of the deep exploration into how the established order oppresses and others, and into the suffering of the victims. Through ***critical reality awareness***, the quotidian realities of those that are subjugated and tormented are better understood, as is also the perspective of *non-oppressing* members of “dominant” groups who are willing to struggle for a more egalitarian society.

Unbiased and inclusive definitions for critical discourse analysis, intersectionality, and critical reality awareness:

² Unless otherwise noted, all the provided definitions are mine, based my PhD (Kaplan, 2020) and decades of egalitarian research and lexicographical work.

³ **Bad Sociology**, or just plain ***bullshit***.

critical discourse analysis (CDA) n

Meaning:

The incisive examination of the role linguistic expression plays in the fostering, preservation, and furtherance of the established order, especially through *othering*.

Insight into fighting bias and exclusion:

CDA involves the scrutiny of discourse in any form and of any length, with the objective of baring the otherwise concealed messages that help to oppress, exploit, and victimize groups of people, including women/females, non-whites, “foreigners,” “minorities,” those that are economically poor, lack a formal education, and so on. Its goal is to promote a more egalitarian society by identifying, exposing, and illustrating how inequality, othering, and victimization work through language.

Towards a heightened inclusive awareness:

CDA takes into account the social context of any discourse, including who says or writes what and where and how, and who is watching, listening, and/or reading and under what circumstances. Other factors considered include images or objects which accompany texts or spoken words, silence (or what is not stated) that can help misrepresent what is communicated, and may even extend to facial gestures, body language, and the like. CDA is biased against bias, and acknowledges when discourse resists the abuse of power.

intersectionality n

1) Meaning: the manners in which multiple manifestations of othering and oppression work together to further intensify the harmful effects that each of them would have individually.

Insight into the bias:

Any combination of sexism, racism, classism, colonialism, heterosexism, religious intolerance, ethnocentrism, and/or xenophobia, among many others, exacerbate the already disadvantageous situation an individual may already be experiencing. For example, a person that is a non-white woman/female who is non-heterosexual, economically poor, and from a “foreign country” faces at least a quintuple discrimination.

Towards a heightened inclusive awareness:

All forms of othering and oppression are interrelated. In order to eradicate social problems such as sexism, racism, and ethnocentrism, it is necessary to attack *all* forms of othering and oppression, or at the very least not “fight selfishly for one’s cause” at the expense of other marginalized groups. When people in subjugated groups focus only on their own plight, ignoring (or in the best case being unaware of) the needs of others, society does not get any closer to having true freedom, equality, and harmony.

2) The analytical framework that enables the understanding of the phenomena associated with *intersectionality* (1).

critical reality awareness (CRA) n

Meaning:

A synergistic amalgam of sociolinguistic and sociocultural tools, especially *critical discourse analysis* and *intersectionality*, that enables the dissection of pretty much any set of linguistic, social, cultural, and behavioral variables as a part of the deep exploration into how the established order oppresses and others, and into the suffering of the victims.

Insight into fighting bias and exclusion:

Through CRA, the quotidian realities of those that are subjugated and tormented are better understood, as is also the perspective of *non-oppressing* members of “dominant” groups who are willing to struggle for a more egalitarian society.

Towards a heightened inclusive awareness:

Within a CRA framework, for instance, it is clear to see how countless Indigenous Peoples (*Native Americans* and *First Nations*, among others, in the USA and Canada) might have painful additional secretions of gastric acid paired with agonizing thoughts when hearing “good Americans” cheerfully wishing each other a “*happy Thanksgiving*.” To them, and to informed and fair-minded people, the national glorification paired with a silence about the genocidal conquest is a bit much. When the continuing oppression of Indigenous Peoples is factored in, it is way too much. That such an “innocuous and well-meaning” expression can evoke such images and physiological reactions is a fitting example of how language, society, culture, thinking, and even physiology are inextricably intertwined.

Body of the article (Part One) – 1,871 words

Not too long ago, we *all* had it *all*. How did we get to our current situation?

“The rape of a woman, the rape of a land, and the rape of a people, they are all the same. And they are the same as the rape of the earth, the rape of the rivers, the rape of the forest, the rape of the air, the rape of the animals. Brutality knows no boundaries. Greed knows no limits. Perversion knows no borders. Arrogance knows no frontiers. Deceit knows no edges.” (Forbes, 2008: xvi)

Only a few millennia ago, less than the blink of a geological eye, we *all* had it *all*: the planet Earth, the nature contained, and all animals, non-human and human alike. Humans lived in harmony with each other, with nature, and the planet as a whole. So what happened?

Mason (2017) tells of how tens of thousands of years ago, our evolutionary ancestors lived in harmony with non-human animals, plants, and nature in general, which held endless awe and fascination to them. Then, the domestication of non-human animals started, and it has all been downhill ever since. The pastoral societies (with shepherds and livestock) had a power and wealth *male-centered* hierarchical organization which was obsessed with the exclusive ownership of non-human animals, and this led to aggressive hostility towards *Others*, flamboyant animal sacrifices, wars and raiding, and a pronounced social inequality which included slavery. The subjugation of non-human animals was then mapped over human females as well, thus *male supremacy* and *patriarchy* originated in these pastoral societies.

It is evident that humans believe that they are the most important thing on Earth and in the universe, and thus can do whatever they please to whomever and whatever they wish, whenever they want to. *Anthropocentrism* embodies this.

Anthropocentrism:

The following is a definition of *anthropocentric*, as accessed via the online version of the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, and permalinked from their website on 2 January 2024⁴:

(Users are redirected to *anthropocentric* when entering *anthropocentrism*.)

***anthropocentric* adjective**

- “1 : considering human beings as the most significant entity of the universe
- 2 : interpreting or regarding the world in terms of human values and experiences ”

(There are no usage notes nor other such indications.)

This definition is clear, concise, and accurate. Nonetheless, the concept itself of *anthropocentrism* reflects a great deal of selfishness, ignorance, and insecurity.

Anthropocentrism is *selfish*, since humans have been, and continue to live at the expense of the environment and nature in general. *Ignorant*, since the universe has existed for billions of years, humans have been around for a comparatively immeasurably small amount of time, and it is exceedingly unlikely that “*human beings are the most significant entity.*” *Insecure*, since only those who know deep down that they are of little worth try to compensate by giving themselves the importance that they lack. To consider themselves “*the most significant entity of the universe*” shows monumental insecurity.

Furthermore, in order to “prove” that they are the most important, and that only their own values and perspectives matter, they overcompensate by subjugating other people, non-human animals, and nature in general. There are many Indigenous cultures and societies who have lived in continuous harmony with nature, so raping it is endemic to “Western and ‘developed’ nations.”

Merriam-Webster might consider adding wording to the effect that when referring to the environment and nature, that *anthropocentrism* can be contrasted with *ecocentrism* and/or *biocentrism*. Perhaps when we have restored nature to its former awe-inspiring status, we can start seeing that “most significant entity of the universe” “status” as a “slight” exaggeration. There might also be a *usage note* added, providing some insight into how *anthropocentrism* has, and continues to do irreparable damage to our planet, and beyond.

Solanas (1968:4) wrote: “*The male has a negative Midas Touch -- everything he touches turns to shit.*” This “modern man *shit*” extends even further than the planet Earth. Space is infinite, so even humans will have a hard time turning it completely into shit. Nonetheless, we are off to a

⁴ Permalink taken on 2 January 2024: <https://archive.vn/wip/Oj1qN>

banging start, with over 100 trillion items (Napper, et al, 2023) of human-originated “space stuff and debris” out there, and *very* quickly counting. These include everything from bags of [literal] shit and urine and diapers/nappys and other miscellaneous crap⁵ that those “valiant hero champion macho-men pioneering ultra cool super-duper smart, and all-around fucking awesome” astronauts⁶ left on the lunar surface, the remains of crashed landings, thousands of “dead satellites,” rocket stages, “mission-related objects” including bolts, panels, and tools, frozen fuel, fragments from past collisions, and countless devices related to the militarization of space. So, to humans space *is* shit. Just another realm to invade, conquer, and destroy. Since humans have self-appointed themselves as “masters of the universe,” they will continue to do their best to *rape* space as well⁷.

Back to Earth: *anthropocentrism* as the origin of *othering*:

Since *anthropocentrism* represents the ultimate in *self-aggrandizement*, it is probably the original source of all *othering*. When people know that they themselves are not worth much, in order to pathetically compensate for those feelings of inferiority, they tend to disparage, demonize, essentialize, and trivialize *Others*. This also serves to “justify” marginalization, oppression, ruthless exploitation, rape, murder, and in its ultimate expression: genocide.

Here are a few examples of this “*if I put them down it means that I am above them*” malarkey:

- Males who fear and hate females are clearly self-aggrandizing *sexists* and *misogynists*.
- White supremacists who fear and hate any people who are not also white are obviously self-aggrandizing *racists*.
- People who are bound by their religion, are in denial of its meaninglessness, and are willing to oppress and even murder members of other religions are perpetrating *religious intolerance*.
- Those who take the superiority of human animals over non-human animals as an incontrovertible reality are committing *speciesism*.
- People who treat “conventionally physically attractive” people better based on looks alone, and behave towards those that are “conventionally physically unattractive” worse based on looks alone are engaging in *lookism*.
- And so on.

An unbiased and inclusive definition of *othering*:

othering *n*

Meaning:

The classification of people as superior or inferior, based on dogmatically categorizing them as a part of a superior-dominant-similar *in-group*, or an inferior-subordinate-

⁵ Resnik, 2019. *Apollo astronauts left their poop on the moon. We gotta go back for that shit.* Vox.

Permalink taken on 10 January 2024. <https://archive.vn/vtyN7>

⁶ Who also happen to be, ahem, “dauntless, indomitable, astute, tenacious, inspiring, and resourceful” in their quest to *rape* space.

⁷ It is worth noting that it was very clear to Solanas that patriarchy and the established order do not deserve any reverence, as evidenced by her writing. This article also forgoes the usual worship of the established order and its traditions.

different *out-group*. The discriminators/perpetrators/bigots consider themselves to belong to the *in-group*, while *Others* are relegated to the *out-group*.

Insight into the bias and exclusion:

Othering is usually perpetrated against people and groups that are perceived as vulnerable, always involves marginalization, treatment without consideration nor dignity, and a purposeful lack of regard. It can also encompass ruthless subjugation and exploitation, and its most extreme expression is genocide. *Othering* serves to “justify” the intolerance and oppression of *Others*, since to the perpetrators *they* are “lesser” beings. Those victimized by *othering* are *Others*.

A couple of prevalent manifestations:

Males who fear and hate females are *self-aggrandizing sexists* and *misogynists*, while white supremacists who fear and hate any people who are not also white are *self-aggrandizing racists*.

Towards a heightened inclusive awareness:

Othering may also be applied to the exploitative relationship humans have with non-human animals, to nature, and the planet as a whole.

Nature has no human voice, and in an *anthropocentric* society and culture, it is only human voices that matter. Since nature can not defend itself against human weapons and destruction, humans continue to rape it mercilessly. This is *human supremacy*. In order to continue the vile process of power concentration, *male supremacy* was next.

Through *anthropocentrism*, from “our” own limited perspective, *human supremacy* situated “us” above all animals, nature, and even the universe. But, why stop there? Why not subjugate half of the totality of the human species itself? Not being satisfied with raping everything around them, thanks to their abject cowardice, men/males started to *rape* women/females to attain *male supremacy*. Then came religion, race, ethnic identity, disability, and on and on.

Before moving on to the first *rape*, it would be helpful to briefly go over some relevant expressions:

Distinguishing between the words/concepts of *sex* and *gender*:

The *sex* of a person is generally determined by the outwardly visible genitalia. The outward *sex* a person has is pretty easy to determine, and in most cases can be answered by a single question: *is their body “outfitted” with a vagina*⁸? If yes, it is a *woman*; if not, then it is a *man*. **Sex** at birth is a *biological fact*⁹.

The *gender* of a person can be determined by other people, or by oneself. When determined by others, the gender of a person is established by how closely they adhere to *gender roles* and *gender stereotypes*, which vary considerably over time. On the other hand, when determined by oneself, anything is possible, including “male,” “female,” some combination of both, neither, or whatever they choose. **Gender**, at any and all times, is a *social construct*.

⁸ Conversely, the single question could also be: *is their body “outfitted” with a penis?*

⁹ There are also some people who whose outwardly visible genitalia do not conform with what has been established as belonging to one of the two sexes.

Phallocentrism:

Phallocentrism means centered on the phallus (penis.) In a **phallogentric** society, having a penis means having power, agency, control, autonomy, and freedom, all at the expense of those who have a vagina, or otherwise do not have a penis. The penis itself is the symbol of supremacy in a phallogentric society, and always serves a reminder of who truly has the power.

Most males are obsessed with their own penis, and penises in general. Their penis is the most important thing in their lives, and their perspectives and entire existence revolve around and depend on penises. To them, the penis alone determines everything: anatomically, culturally, socially, linguistically, and ideologically.

Briefly distinguishing between **patriarchy, patriarchal society, male dominance, male supremacy, male privilege, female oppression, female subjugation, female subordination, and female disempowerment:**

Patriarchy is an ideology and societal structure in which males have most or all of the power, at the expense of females.

In a **patriarchal society**, where **patriarchy** reigns supreme, females are objectified and commodified, with the concomitant lack of regard for their needs and well-being. This results in **female oppression**.

Patriarchy embodies the institutionalized system of **male dominance** over females. **Male dominance** equates to **female subjugation**.

Male supremacy is the real-life damage caused by **male dominance**. **Male dominance** arose out of brutality, **rape**, and other forms of sexual violence, and results in **female subordination**.

In a **male supremacy**, all males, to varying extents, enjoy **male privilege**. **Male privilege** results in **female disempowerment**.

These all feed on each other, in a brutal vicious circle that fosters and preserves **patriarchy**.

And it all started with a single **rape**.

(Part Two of this article is forthcoming.)

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