

Nationality, Race and Ethnicity

Before we move on to look at these ways in which we group people take a moment to think about these three phrases.

What do they mean to you?

Are they the same?

How have you heard them used?

Definition of Nation

A country, a kingdom, a political state

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 2009)

- A historic territory or homeland
- Common historical memories
- A common culture
- A common (political) destiny and, relatedly,
- A desire for at least some degree of social and/or political self-determination

(Guibernau, 1996 *cited in* May, 2012: 57)

Nationalism

The 'logic' of nationalism runs as follows;

- The world is divided into nations
- Each nation has its own identity and destiny
- The nation is the sole source of political power
- Every person needs to belong to a nation to be truly free
- Loyalty to the nation is pre-eminent

(Breuilly, 1993 & Smith, 1994 *cited in* May, 2012: 58)

Nationalism

- Nations must be as politically independent as possible
- Political autonomy or at least some degree of self-determination is a central tenant of nationalism
- To maintain peace and justice in the world, nations must be both;
 - Sufficiently free, and
 - Sufficiently secure
- In order to pursue what is in their national interest

Definitions of race

‘A group or set, especially of people, having a common feature or features.’

‘A tribe, nation, or people, regarded as of common stock [...] having in common distinct physical features or ethnic background’.

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 2009)

The problem of defining 'race'.

- The placing of the term 'race' in inverted commas is now seen by some sociologists as a useful way of indicating that this manner of categorizing individuals and population groups is not based on any biologically valid distinctions between the genetic make-up of differently identified 'races'.
- Racial categorization is frequently (though not always) based on phenotypical differences; that is, differences of facial characteristics, skin colour, and so forth.

The problem of defining 'race'.

- But these do not correlate with genotypical differences (differences in genetic makeup).
- Nor, reputable scientific opinion now agrees, are there innate differences of personality, intelligence, and so forth, between populations categorized on either of these bases.

(Scott & Marshall 2009)

(See for example: [M'charek et al 2014](#))

The problem of defining 'race'.

‘The sociology of race is largely concerned with examining the causes and consequences of the socially constructed division of social groups according to their so-called race, regardless of whether this is legitimated by reference to any of the above factors, or none of them (as, for example, in the case of anti-semitism)’.



Paraphrasing: What is this quote telling us



Guided study activity: Paraphrasing 'Race'

The Reality of 'Race'

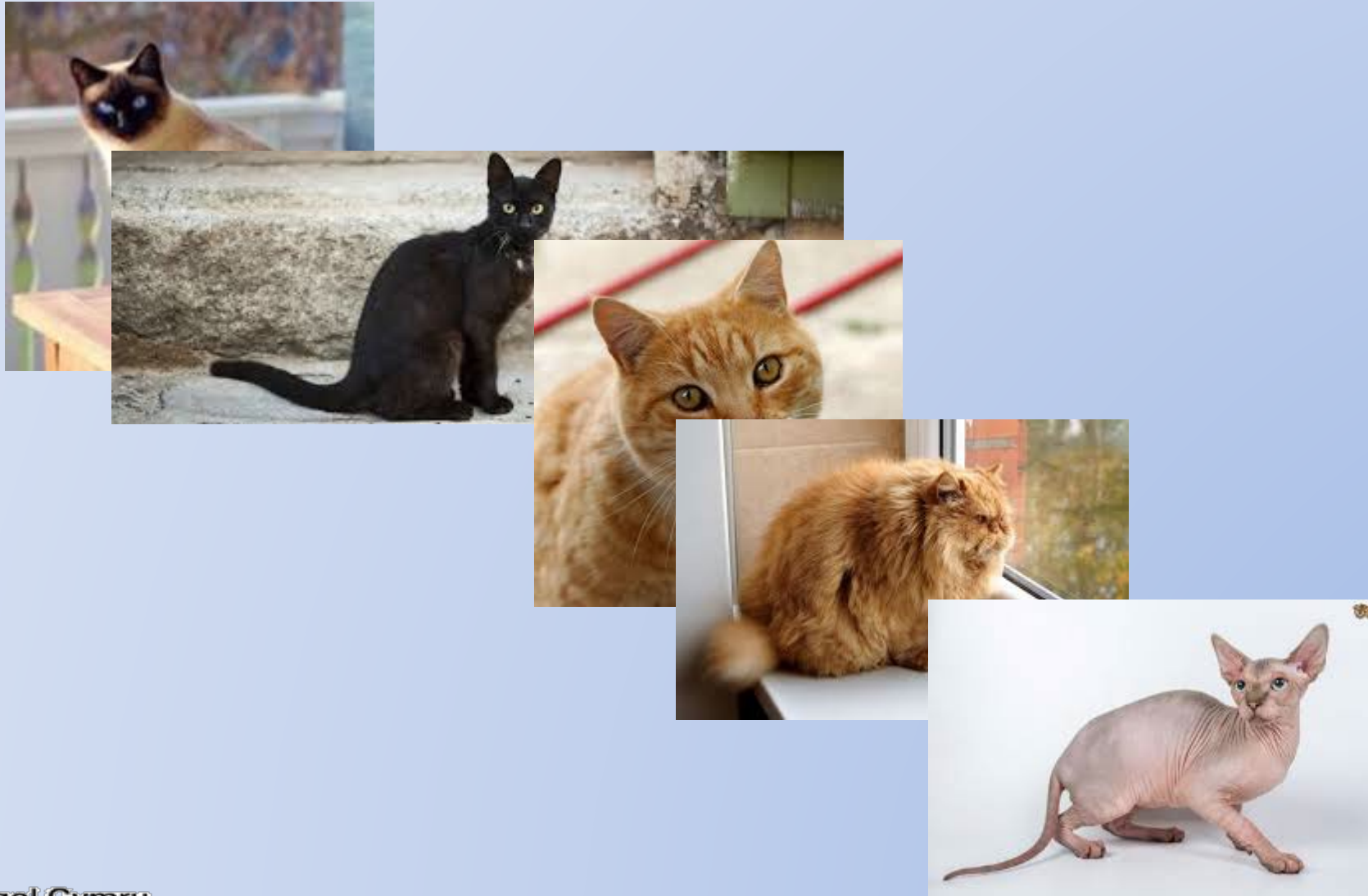
- It is argued that the big difference among human groups are the result of culture
- NOT biological inheritance or race
- All human beings belong to the same species and the biological features essential to human life are common to us all
- Yet in spite of this truth and wisdom Racism remains a major hindrance to successful intercultural communication

(Samovar, 2010: 178)

Phenotype, genotype, species & 'race'



Phenotype, genotype, species & 'race'



Phenotype, genotype, species & 'race'



Phenotype, genotype, species & 'race'



Definition of Species

- 'A group of organisms that resemble each other more than they resemble members of other groups and cannot be subdivided into two or more species'.
- 'The precise definition of what constitutes a species differs depending on which species concept is applied'.
- However, 'according to the biological species concept, a species comprises a group of individuals that can usually breed among themselves and produce fertile offspring'

Definition of Racism

- Racism is the belief in the inherent superiority of a particular race
- It denies the basic equality of humankind and correlates ability with physical composition
- Thus, it assumes that success or failure in any societal endeavour will depend upon genetic endowment rather than environment and access to opportunity

(Samovar, 2010: 176)

Personal Racism

- Consists of racist acts, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours on the part of the individual person

(Samovar, 2010: 176)

Institutional Racism

- Racial inferiorising or antipathy perpetrated by specific social institutions such as schools, corporations, hospitals, or the criminal justice system as a totality
- It can be intentional or unintentional
- In either case it has a detrimental effect on specific groups and society as a whole

(Samovar, 2010: 176)

Avoiding Racism

1. Be honest with ourselves as to any racist views
2. Object to racist jokes and insults whenever you hear them
3. Respect freedom for all
4. Examine the historical roots of racism

(Samovar, 2010: 176)

Early Socialisation

- Racism, stereotyping, prejudice are prevalent as they are learned early in life
- Learnt in the same way as culture
- Become part of our way of seeing the world

(Samovar, 2010: 176)

Definition of Ethnicity

‘Ethnic character; the fact or sense of belonging to a particular ethnic group’

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 2009)

But what do they mean by ethnic group?



Definition of Ethnicity

Anthropologists define ethnic groups as:

1. A group which is largely self-perpetuating
2. A group which shares fundamental cultural values
3. A group which makes up a field of communication and interaction
4. A group which has a membership which identifies itself and is identified by others as constituting a category distinguishable from other categories of the same order (i.e. other ethnic groups)

(Barth *cited in* Fenton, 2010: 91)

Emergence & Persistence of Ethnicity

To understand what constitutes ethnicity we need to answer two interrelated questions:

What is the nature of ethnicity?

- i.e. is ethnicity that which is inherited or something that is constructed?

What determines ethnic affiliation or identification?

- What makes a person choose to live their ethnic identity?

(Barth *cited in* Fenton, 2010: 91)

Nation, Race and Ethnicity



What do you think?

What are your thoughts about the following questions?



Is Wales a NATION?

Are the Welsh a separate RACE?

Are the Welsh a separate ETHNIC GROUP?



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Nation, Race and Ethnicity



What do you think?

What are your thoughts about the following questions?



If a person moves to Wales can they ever be considered to be Welsh??

In anyone born in Wales immediately Welsh?

What is it that makes a person Welsh?



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Ancestry or Physical Attributes?

- What is your ethnicity?
- Other than a list of categories: white, black, Hispanic etc.
- What does the Question really mean?
- What is your ethnic group membership?
- Which ethnic group are you affiliated with?
- Which ethnic group do you identify yourself with?

(Barth *cited in* Fenton, 2010: 91)

Ethnocentrism

- Ethnocentrism is the notion that one's own ethnic culture is superior to any other
- It is the idea that other cultures should be measured by the degree to which they live up to our cultural standards
- We are ethnocentric when we view other cultures through the narrow lens of our own culture or social position

(Samovar, 2010: 178-179)

Othering

- Once other people can be considered 'alien' for being different this can lead to a process that Husserl called 'othering'
- This means that the different 'others' are seen as what Husserl termed subaltern

(Bullock *et al*, 1999, p.620)

Othering

- Brons argues that;

‘Othering is the simultaneous construction of the self or in-group and the other or out-group in mutual and unequal opposition through identification of some desirable characteristic that the self/in-group has and the other/out-group lacks and/or some undesirable characteristic that the other/out-group has and the self/in-group lacks.

Othering thus sets up a superior self/in-group in contrast to an inferior other/out-group, but this superiority/inferiority is nearly always left implicit’.

(Brons, 2015, p.70)



Othering

- Othering can lead to people being seen as inferior and at worst inhuman
- This in turn can lead to the 'others' being excluded from society
- It can also mean that they are not perceived as having the same rights as the 'superior' group
- At its most extreme the process of othering can lead to the cruel and inhuman treatment of anyone who is different because of gender, race, sexuality etc.

Othering in Action

1.



Sophie Lancaster

2.



Brandon Teena

3.



Mariamou Staford



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Othering in Action

Group Activity

Discuss how you might recognise that a group has been 'othered'.

Feedback to your Tutor.

Find examples of groups that have suffered from 'othering'.

Share these with the larger group.

Multi-culturalism: What does it mean?

- The **demographic-descriptive** usage occurs where 'multicultural' is used to refer to the existence of ethnically or racially diverse segments in the population of a society or State.
- It represents a perception that such differences have some social significance-primarily because of perceived cultural differences though these are frequently associated with forms of structural differentiation.

Multi-culturalism: What does it mean?

- The **ideological-normative** usage of multiculturalism is that which generates the greatest level of debate since it constitutes a slogan and model for political action based on sociological theorising and ethical-philosophical consideration about the place of those with culturally distinct identities in contemporary society.
- Multiculturalism emphasises that acknowledging the existence of ethnic diversity and ensuring the rights of individuals to retain their culture should go hand in hand with enjoying full access to, participation in, and adherence to, constitutional principles and commonly shared values prevailing in the society.

Multi-culturalism: What does it mean?

- In the **programmatic-political** usage 'multiculturalism' refers to specific types of programs and policy initiatives designed to respond to and manage ethnic diversity.
- It was in this usage that 'multiculturalism' first gained currency after it was recommended in the 1965 Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. T
- This Report recommended that multiculturalism replace the bicultural policy based on the British and French Charter groups around whom policies for ethnic diversity in Canadian society had been organised for over a century.

Multi-culturalism: A Positive Approach



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