



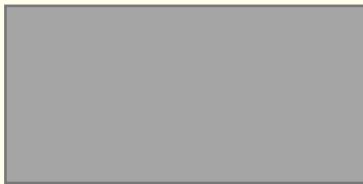
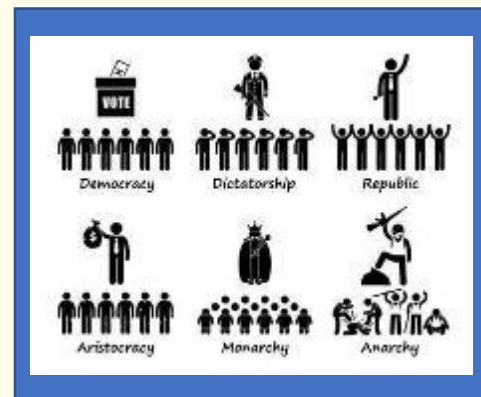
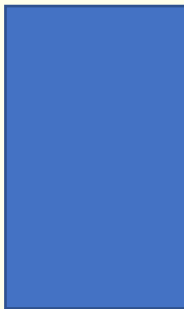
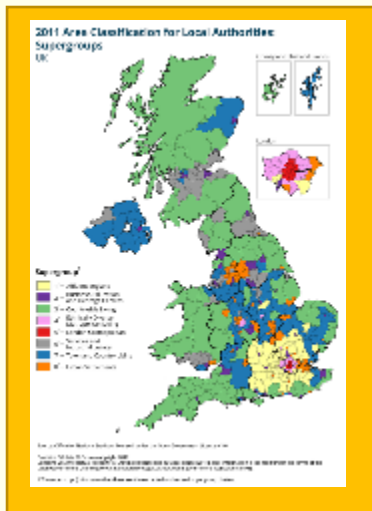
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Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



ECED7007: Political Influences in Inequality & Diversity

Theme 1: Intersectionality & Politics of Recognition: An Introduction

What is intersectionality?



Is this a concept that you have come across before?

If so, in what context?

What do you understand it to mean?

What is intersectionality?

- The term is thought to have been coined by radical feminist Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989) in her article 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics'
- In essence, the term is used to describe the lived experience of individuals who may experience inequality, discrimination or **marginalisation** because they exist as a member of a number of 'groups' within society
- Effectively, it is a reminder to those studying this area that we should not 'pigeon hole' people into one category or another but should accept that each individual is exactly that
- In this sense it can be seen to continue our discussion on the fluidity and uncertainty of terms and categories that are used in the current discourse

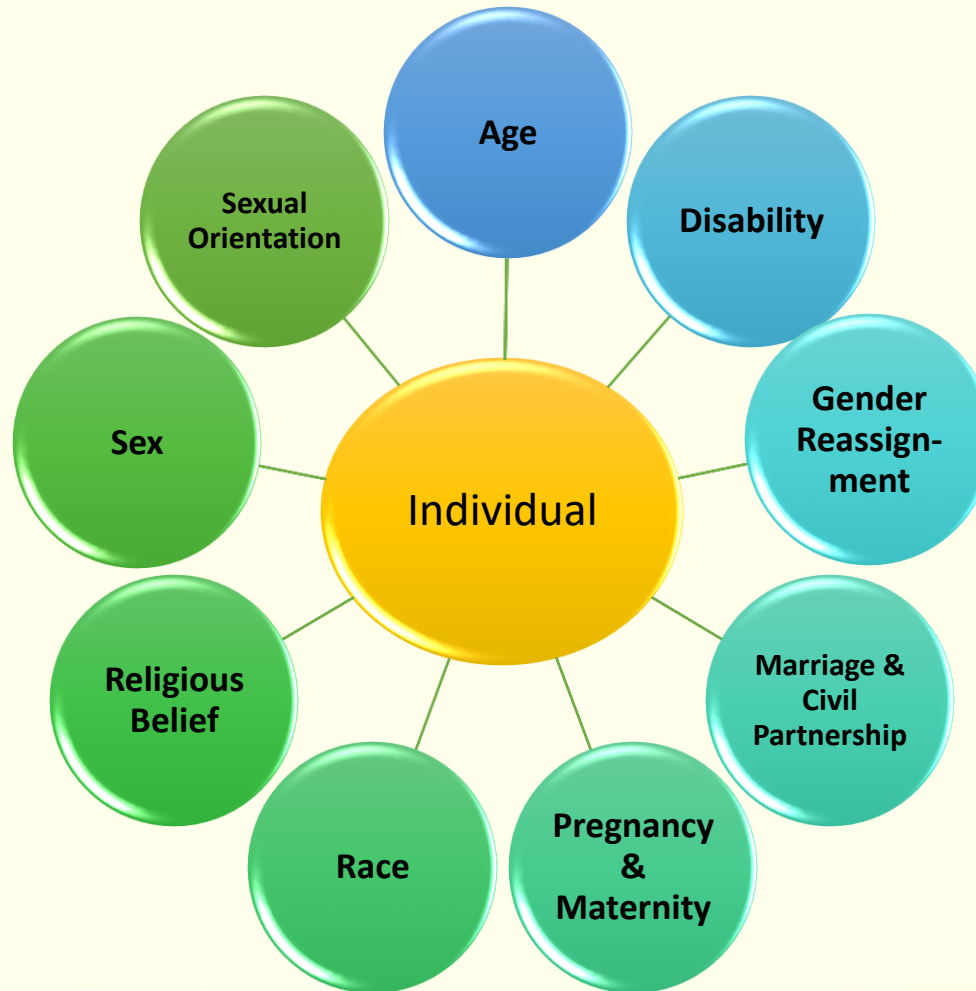
People on the Margins?



*What characteristics **might** mean that an individual could be marginalised in society?*

What is intersectionality?

Protected Characteristics– The Equality Act 2010



Intersectionality Defined

Kimberlé Crenshaw on the concept of Intersectionality

- In this short video Crenshaw outlines the role that the idea of intersectionality plays in the debate on inequality

As you watch, make a note of any thoughts or questions and then share them with the group



Intersectionality Challenged

An alternative view of Intersectionality

- As with many of the other concepts we will explore, the idea of intersectionality is contested
- For example, Ben Shapiro, editor of a website called *the Daily Wire* voices an alternative view

As you watch, make a note of any thoughts or questions and then share them with the group



The Politics of Recognition

- This phrase was coined by Charles Taylor in 1992
- It describes the struggles of different groups of individuals to have their 'identity' recognised by society
- Charles Taylor argues that it is the **demand** for recognition on behalf of;

‘Minority or “subaltern groups” [...]in what is today called the politics of “multiculturalism.”’

(Taylor, 1992, p.25)

The Politics of Recognition

- The concept relates to the political struggles of any minority or oppressed groups to have their identity recognised
- Always refers to an asymmetrical relationship (i.e. where there is a power imbalance)
- It usually relates to groups trying to break the cycle of the reproduction of inequality
- Involves the challenging of stereotypes, labelling and othering, which has also been called 'misrepresentation' (Martineau et al., 2012)

The Politics of Recognition



Can you think of contemporary examples of this?

The Politics of Recognition

Contemporary Examples of the Politics of Recognition

- These are some of the **many** examples that can be seen in contemporary society
- [Black Lives Matter](#)
- [Me Too](#)
- [Reclaim The Night](#)
- [United Response](#)
- [Stonewall](#)
- [Friends, Families & Travellers](#)

The Politics of Recognition

Close Reading Exercise



Guided Study Activity: The Politics of Recognition

*Read the Chapter 'Politics of Recognition' by Charles Taylor
(N.B. available on Moodle)*

You should identify the key elements of the concept on the Guided Study sheet.

Additional Reading

Anthias, F. (2013) 'Intersectional what? Social divisions, intersectionality and levels of analysis'. *Ethnicities*, 13(1), pp.3–19. Available at: [Intersectional what? Social divisions, intersectionality and levels of analysis - Floya Anthias, 2013](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

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Walby, S. 2009) *Globalisation and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities*, 2009 London: Sage Available at: [Robins-3732-Ch-01.qxp](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

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Black Lives Matter (No Date) *About Black Lives Matter* Available at: [About Black Lives Matter - Black Lives Matter](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

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Crenshaw, Kimberlé (2018) *Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw Defines Intersectionality* [Video] Available at: [Professor Kimberle Crenshaw Defines Intersectionality](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Equality Act 2010 c. 15 Available at: [Equality Act 2010](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Friends, Families & Travellers (No Date) *Friends, Families and Travellers: Working Towards Equality* Available at: [Friends, Families and Travellers](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Martineau et al (2012) 'Theory and Practice in the Politics of Recognition and Misrecognition' *Res Publica* Vol. 18 Pages 1-9 Available at: [Theory and Practice in the Politics of Recognition and Misrecognition | Res Publica](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

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Me Too (2025) *Our Vision and Theory of Change* Available at: [Get To Know Us | Our Vision & Theory of Change](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Riley, M. (2025) *The history and importance of Reclaim the Night* Challenge Magazine Available at: [The history and importance of Reclaim the Night – Challenge Magazine](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Shapiro, B. (2029) *What is Intersectionality?* [Video] Available at: [What Is Intersectionality? | 5 Minute Video](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Stonewall (2024) *What We Stand For* Available at [What we stand for | Stonewall](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Taylor, C. (1992) 'The Politics of Recognition' (PDF of Chapter in Gutmann, A. *et al* (1994) –see above Available at: [Taylor%2C%20Politics%20of%20Recognition](#). [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

Taylor, C. *et al* (1994) *Multi-culturalism: Examining the politics of recognition* Gutmann, A. [ed.] Princeton; Princeton University Press Available at: [Multiculturalism : examining the politics of recognition : Taylor, Charles, 1931- : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#) [Last Accessed 07/01/2026]

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