



Demystifying Gender Differences in the Filipino Culture from a Feminist Psychological Perspective

MAJA E. FRANCISCO, RP

Objectives:

- ♀ Define **gender socialization**, and determine roots of gender roles and stereotyping
- ♀ Differentiate between **hostile sexism and benevolent sexism**
- ♀ Realize sexism from a **feministic psychological** framework
- ♀ **Reframe** gender construction, roles and expectations



Gender Socialization and Construction

Gender Roles and Stereotyping

- ▶ First question asked – **is it a boy or a girl?**
- ▶ **Infant behavior across gender is similar BUT treatment is different**
 - ▶ Baby's clothing predicted how "it" was treated
 - ▶ Media, teachers, peers, etc. often provide and reinforce gender role expectations (i.e., what is socially appropriate for females & males)
- ▶ Over time, a gender role schema develops: We interpret our world based on our gender expectations



Agents of Gender Socialization

- ▶ **Family**
- ▶ **Language and Media**
- ▶ **Organized Religion**

Filipino Family: Ang Haligi at Ginang ng Tahanan

- ▶ It is the **male figure who takes care of the family** and if he cannot provide, he is not doing his job.
- ▶ As mothers, women are supposed to have not only a good behavior but a perfect one because they are the pattern of conduct for the entire family, especially for their children.
- ▶ **Filipino mothers have authority in the moral and religious aspect of the family.**



Filipino Family

- ▶ Working moms and stay-at-home dads
 - Role conflicts, negative perceptions



Stereotyping – effect of gender socialization

	BABAE	LALAKI
TYPICAL POSITIVE TRAITS	Maganda Magaling magluto Maalaga	Malakas Magaling magmaneho Matipuno
TYPICAL NEGATIVE TRAITS	Iyakin Maarte Ambisyosa	Mahina ang loob Duwag Batugan

Language

- ▶ Compared to English, Tagalog language is generally nonsexist
- ▶ Gender neutral words
- ▶ *asawa (husband or wife), anak (son or daughter), magulang (father or mother), kapatid (brother or sister), bayani (hero or heroine)*

Language

- ▶ Colonization gave way to loaned words
- ▶ Words mostly refer to ethnicities, occupations, and family
- ▶ Pinoy/Pinay (nickname for a Filipino person)
Amerikano/Amerikana (American), tindero/tindera (vendor), inhinyero/inhinyera (engineer), tito/tita (uncle/aunt), lolo/lola (grandfather/grandmother)

Feminization and Masculinization of language

- ▶ “Haligi ng Tahanan”
 - Haligi – poste, pillar. Firm, stable, hard
- ▶ “Ginang ng Tahanan”
 - “Siya ang **maybahay**”
 - Head of the household
- ▶ “**Bahay** bata” → uterus, womb
- ▶ Dala – “nagdadalang tao” “bigat ng dala” “*taga salo*” personality



Feminization and Masculinization of language

- ▶ **Ulo** – utak, isipan, **control & power** (masculine)
 - Pangulo, sira ulo, ulol, magulo
 - “Utak ng kilusan” “Isubo mo ang ulo”
- ▶ **“Loob at laman”** – puso, **emotion & flesh** (feminine)
 - buong loob, laman loob, sama ng loob, magaan ang loob
 - hawakan, lasahin, tikman, salatin, kapkap
 - #hugot lines

Media Representations

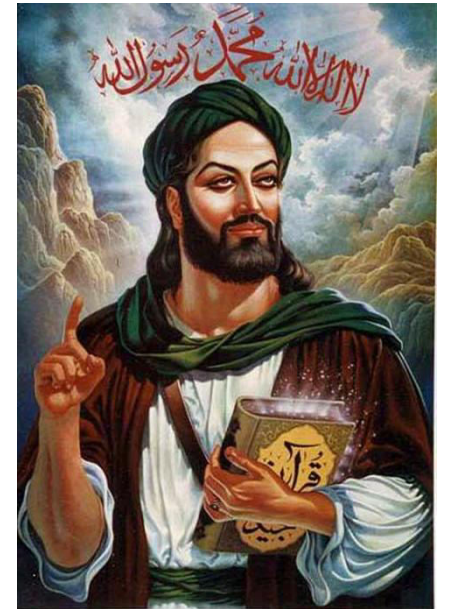


Media Representations



Religion

- ▶ Religion has reinforced secular traditions and gender roles in many cultures, including our own
- ▶ Religion has been **male dominated**
- ▶ “The **Father**, the **Son**, the Holy Spirit...”

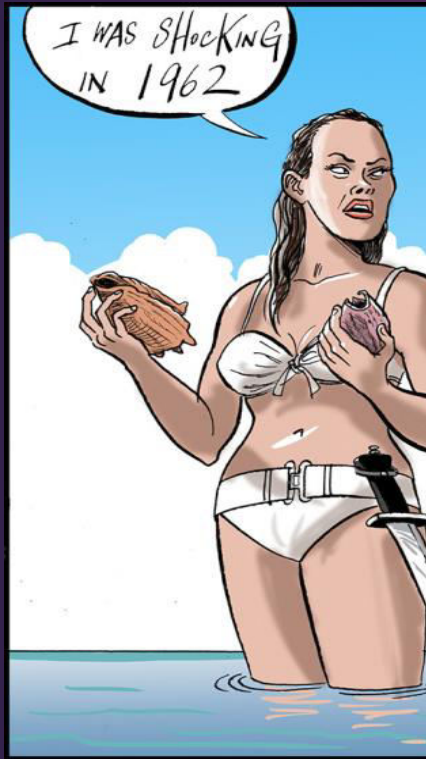


Religion

- ▶ The long history of religions provides a strong social and political influence
- ▶ Religion also define values, heuristic decision making and implicit and explicit attitudes that define gender differences



Bikini vs. Burkini issue



Insights from Bikini vs. Burkini issue

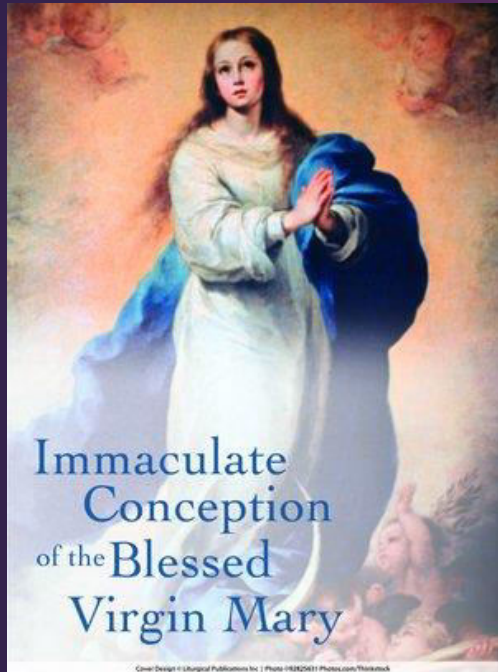
- ▶ Men make rules what women should wear
- ▶ Men make rules what women should do with their bodies
- ▶ Women embrace these male perspectives
- ▶ Religion is generally patriarchal, and generalizes and imposes males' experiences and perspectives for making decisions about women

Religion

- ▶ Spanish Catholic Church had a role in defining a Filipino woman
- ▶ Two role models - the martyr and mother role of Mary or the evil woman and seductress role by Magdalene
 - “Putang ina mo” → mother is a whore
 - Puta → kalapating mababa ang lipad



Religion



A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus

...³⁷ When a sinful woman from that town learned that Jesus was dining there, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair. Then she kissed His feet and anointed them with the perfume. ³⁹ When the Pharisees who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would know who this is and what kind of woman is touching Him—for she is a sinner!"...



STOP

“Honor Killings”

Sanctioned murder of women in “Honor Killings”: When women are raped or suspected of flirtations or sexual relations with men who are not their husbands, they are often murdered by relatives to preserve family “honor.” In court, the murderers receive light sentences or are acquitted. This practice is widespread in the Middle East, including in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Gaza and the West Bank, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.

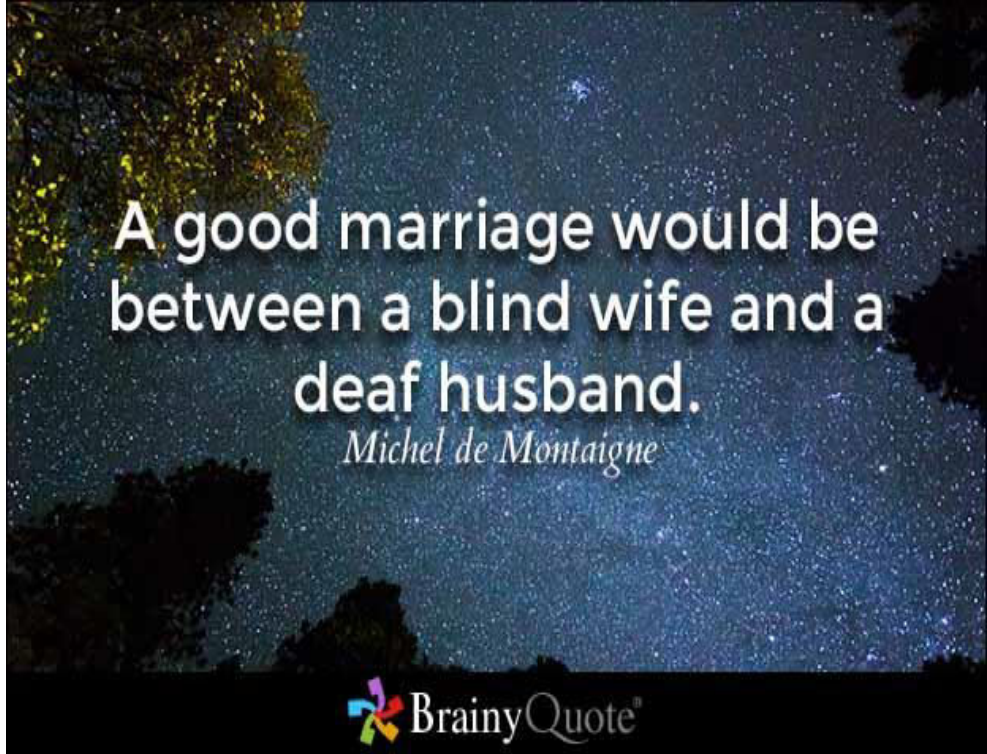


Fifteen-year-old Rofayda Qaoud of the Palestinian village of Abu Qash was raped and impregnated by her brothers. When she refused to kill herself to save her family’s honor, her mother Amira (left) suffocated, stabbed, and beat her to death the night of January 23, 2003. She received a light sentence, as “honor killing” is a mitigating factor in the Palestinian judicial system.

Produced by **Stand/WithUs**

Religion

- ▶ The ideal Filipino woman – **virgin until married, fertile when married, and long-suffering until death**
- ▶ Long-suffering ideal role resulted to non-complaining and silence Filipina
- ▶ Complex culture of martyrdom resulted to accepting all trials and hardship without question
- ▶ Stereotypical patterns of weakness, passivity, martyrdom and inferiority are strengthened



A good marriage would be
between a blind wife and a
deaf husband.

Michel de Montaigne



SEXISM

What is Sexism?

- ▶ Sexism is the range of attitudes, beliefs, policies, laws, and behaviors that discriminate against the members of one sex.
- ▶ The subordination of one sex, female, based on the assumed superiority of the other sex, male
- ▶ The **primary source of sexism is socialization**, particularly in the family, where children are treated differently on the basis of their sex.

Hostile sexism

- ▶ Hostility towards women who challenge male power, whether directly (e.g., feminists) or through 'feminine wiles'
- ▶ **Dominative paternalism** (the belief that the system is legitimate and that men should have greater power than women in society)
- ▶ Men as sexual gatekeepers
- ▶ Women who are strong, independent and sexual are severely punished



Duterte warns Sereno: Get out of my way or it's martial law

By: Jigger Jerusalem, Marlon Ramos - @inquirerdotnet Inquirer Mindanao, Philippine Daily Inquirer / 08:54 PM August 09, 2016



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Palace confirms 'desist' order for Robredo but clarifies some issues

By: Nestor Corrales - Reporter / @NCorralesINQ INQUIRER.net / 09:02 PM December 04, 2016



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Duterte vows to 'destroy' female gov't official

ABS-CBN News

Hostile sexism

- ▶ Manhood is more easily threatened than womanhood
 - Manhood is “earned”, womanhood is natural
- ▶ Working with a woman who holds more status and/or power might serve as a threat to manhood
- ▶ Men respond to a woman occupying a high position with greater feelings of threat and more assertive behaviors, both of which are ways of protecting and boosting one's masculinity.

Hostile sexism

- ▶ Justifies rape, incest, sexual harassment and battery
- ▶ Victim blaming
- ▶ *“Ayaw mo ha? Pakipot ka pa.” “Ang landi mo kasi.”
“Bakit kasi ganyan suot mo?”*
- ▶ Not always physical - ex. encouraging certain style of dress, motherhood, unpaid housework



www.pep.ph/lifestyle/27574/the-women-in-dolphys-life

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LIFESTYLE

The women in Dolphy's life

posted on **July 11, 2012**

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2M people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

IMAGE Courtesy of ABS-CBN

"Siempre, pagkatapos no'ng physical na paghanga, inaalaala mo muna iyong ugali, dahil 'yon ang nagiging importante sa lahat," Dolphy said about his past romantic relationships in his authorized biography titled *Dolphy: Hindi Ko Ito Narating Mag-isa*. In this photo, he is shown with his greatest love, Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Men with a good sense of humor often attract beautiful ladies.

This is probably one of the reasons Comedy King Dolphy did not only touch every Filipino's heart but also caught the attention of some women in and out of showbiz.

In his authorized biography *Dolphy: Hindi Ko Ito Narating Mag-isa*, the respected comedian set the record straight and related stories about the women in his life.

www.philstar.com/headlines/237545/fpj-admits-having-illegitimate-child

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JRS EXPRESS

HATID TIW
Kahit saan ma
Kahit kailan m

FPJ admits having illegitimate child

By Ann Corvera | Updated February 4, 2004 - 12:00am

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Like his bosom buddy deposed President Joseph Estrada, presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr. has admitted fathering a child out of wedlock.

Poe’s admission was made with just a week before the official campaign period begins for the May 10 elections.

Poe nonchalantly admitted siring a child by former actress Ana Marin in an exclusive interview with GMA-7’s "Bio-data" program which was shown late last night.

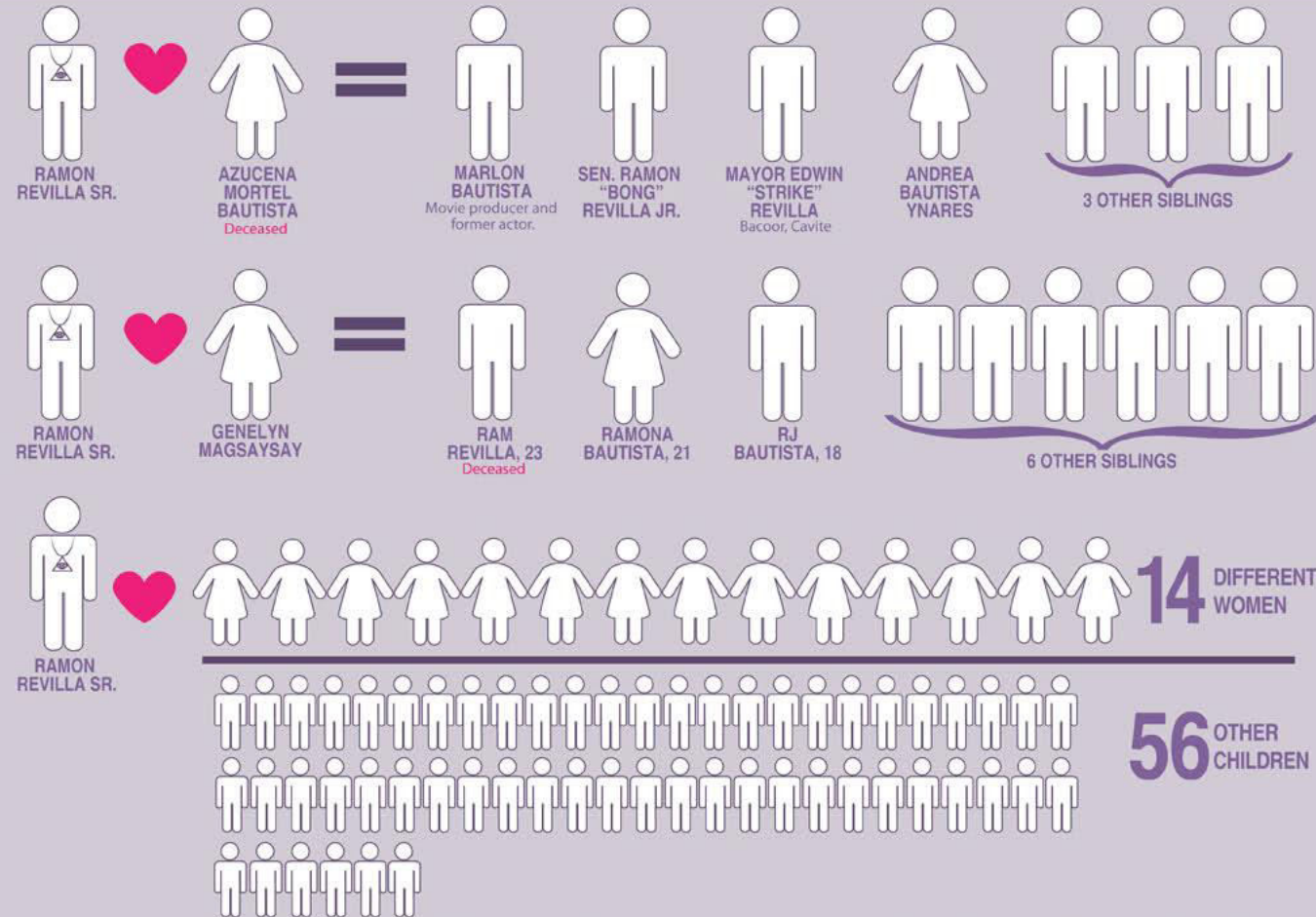


“Ang tipo kong lalaki ay maginoo pero medyo bastos”

Case study: Ramon Revilla Sr

- ❖ Filipino actor
- ❖ best known as the "*Haring Agimat*" in Philippine movies
- ❖ **former Senator of the Republic of the Philippines**
- ❖ **fathered 72 children to 16 different women**

Understanding the Revilla Family



Note: Ramon Revilla Sr.'s real name is Jose Acuña Bautista. His children use the surname "Revilla" when they enter the entertainment industry or politics. This is the reason why some of the patriarch's children use the surname Revilla and some use Bautista.



ANG NATATANDAAN KO LANG EH...



**ININVITE AKO SA CONDO
KAGABI.**



he supposedly invite Navarro to her condo? Why did she supposedly tell him to bring food?
he supposedly engage in foreplay with him?

Slut shaming – the practice of maligning women for presumed sexual activity





Male perspectives on being friendzoned



"Very telling about how casually sexist we are as a society. If the girl is nice, she's stringing him along. If she rejects him and doesn't encourage him so as to push him away, she's a bitch. If she doesn't realize how he feels, she's self centered and oblivious. If she suspects, she is *feelingera*. The girl simply cannot win in this scenario."



Benevolent sexism

- ▶ Subjectively benevolent but patronising, casting women as wonderful but fragile creatures who ought to be protected and provided for by men
- ▶ **Protective paternalism** (the view that women should be protected by men)
- ▶ **Women are expected to be more caring and nurturing** and generally nicer people than men
- ▶ Women are placed on a pedestal, and **admired for their attractiveness and desirability (objectification of women)**

Benevolent sexism

- ▶ This ideology provide some **hedonic benefits at the personal level** despite its perpetuation of gender inequality at the structural level.
- ▶ Gender equality status quo is “fair” → **system justification** of social structures
 - ▶ **System justification** → process by which people justify the status quo and believe that there are no longer problems facing disadvantaged groups (such as women) in modern day society.
- ▶ Plays a critical role in justifying **hostile sexism and gender inequality**

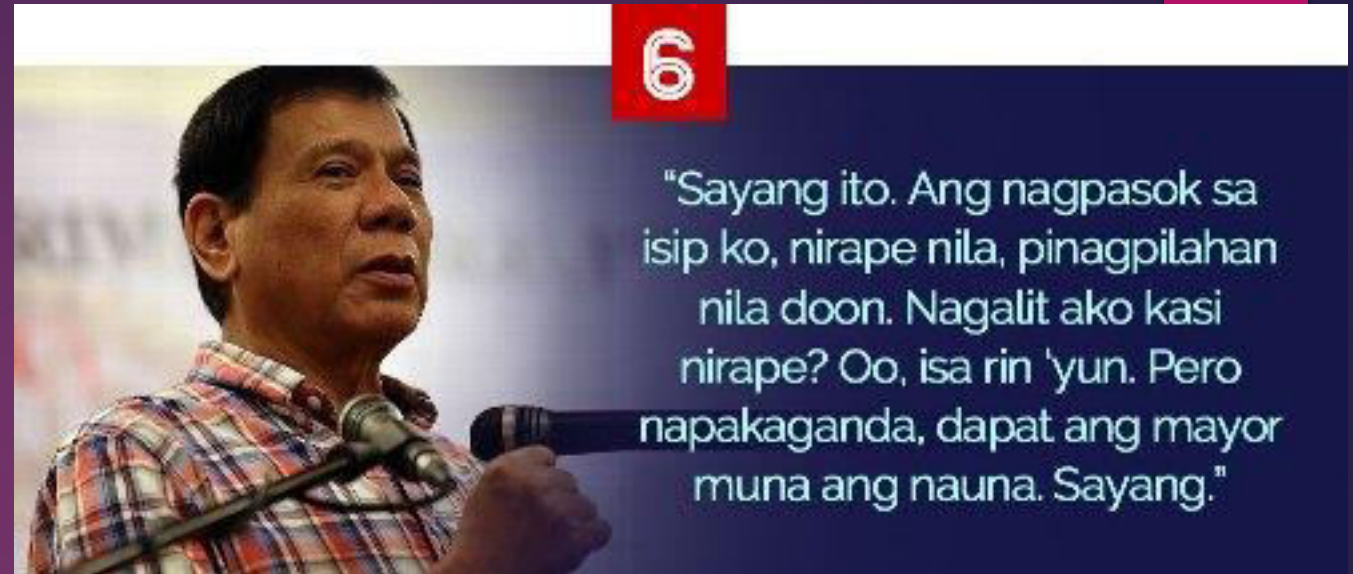
Examples of benevolent sexism



"Kasi si Ma'am Leni, medyo shorter than usual 'yung damit na ano ganun. Siguro nahalata ng mga protocol officer kasi sige ako sa likod. Si [Finance Secretary] Sonny Dominguez, kasi siya ang nagpapasok sa likod ko, 'Tingnan mo 'yung...tuhod ni... noong nahalata ng mga protocol officer, imitate Robredo pulling down her skirt."

"Gusto ko sabihin, 'Ma'am mag-shorts ka na lang ka sa meeting."

"Bakit paiksi-iksi ka ng damit tapos... So ang ginawa ko mo man, binaliktad niya. Tapos nakaharap na doon sa meeting, meetings, doon na siya sa harap ko," Duterte said."



In his newsletter, Mr. Allen attributed the phrase

Trump likes the women who work for him “to d
says a source who worked on Trump’s campaign
jeans, you need to look neat and orderly.” We h
worked in Trump’s campaign field offices – foll
time knocking on d
to wear dresses to i

WOMEN

I'm the guy, I should pay.

I'm the guy, I get paid more.

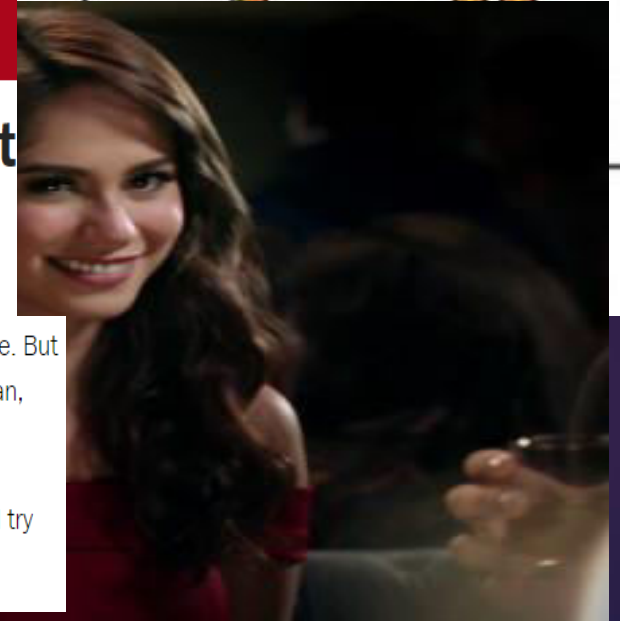
ABS-CBN NEWS

Too much attention on beauty over talent 'hurts' Liza Soberano

Rhys Buccat, ABS-CBN News

"And there are times na kunwari nagpe-perform na ako, I know I'm not the best dancer out there. But then I feel down about what I did during the production, lalapit sila sa akin and say: 'OK lang 'yan, maganda ka naman,'" Soberano said.

"Sometimes it gets to a point that it starts hurting me na kasi 'yon na lang ang pinapansin and I try so hard to prove that I'm not just that. But still they can't see past that."



Examples of benevolent sexism

- ▶ *“Dapat kasi naasikaso mo ang asawa mo, para di na lang sya nandilig sa iba.”*
- ▶ *“Di mo na kelangan magtrabaho, ako ang bahala sayo at mga anak natin.”*
- ▶ *“Pagkababae mong tao, nasa labas ka pa ng ganitong oras ng gabi. Baka ma-rape ka dyan.”*
- ▶ *“Smile ka naman dyan, wag mataray”*
- ▶ *“The Filipina does not need to be liberated because in fact, she already dominates the home and family businesses as well.”*

Benevolent sexism: **deceptively malevolent**

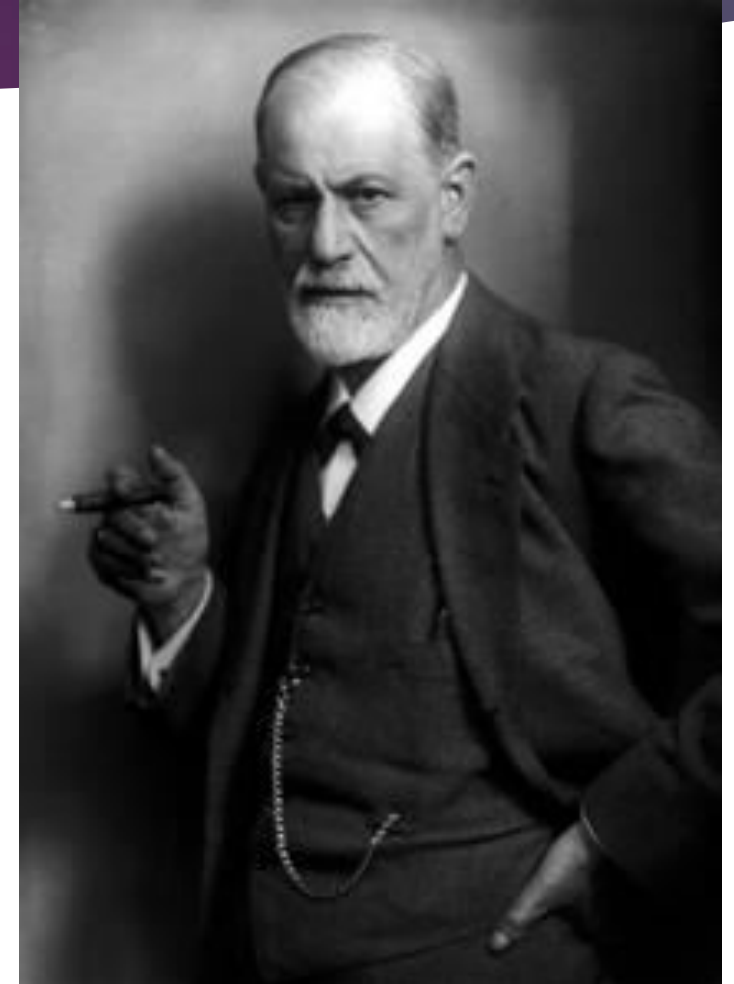
- ▶ **Women who were exposed to benevolent sexism** were more likely to think that there are many advantages to being a woman and were also more likely to **engage in system justification**
- ▶ **Women exposed to hostile sexism** were *more* likely to intend to engage in collective action, and **more willing to fight against sexism** in their everyday lives.



FEMINIST PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Freudian Theory and Gender

- ▶ Development is primarily unconscious
- ▶ Gender identity is developed through early childhood experiences—ego (ego boundaries—me and not me), id (natural impulses/instinct), superego (internal morality, internalized society)



Freudian Theory and Gender

- ▶ **Identification theory** — unconscious psychological processes through emotional attachments to parents Between 3-5 years of age, this changes and children identify with the same-sex parent.
 - ▶ Boys genitalia causes castration anxieties (**castration complex; emasculation**)
 - ▶ Girls' lack of penis make them inferior (**Penis envy**)
 - ▶ **Oedipal and Electra conflict**
- ▶ Due to their identification with the same-sex parent, children become sex-typed

Criticisms of Freudian theories

- ▶ Androcentric – men's experiences are generalized to women
- ▶ Phallocentric
 - Phallus as a symbol of dominance and superiority
 - Women's pathologies are due to their being a woman
- ▶ Emphasis on sexual and moral superiority of men, and submissiveness and passivity of women

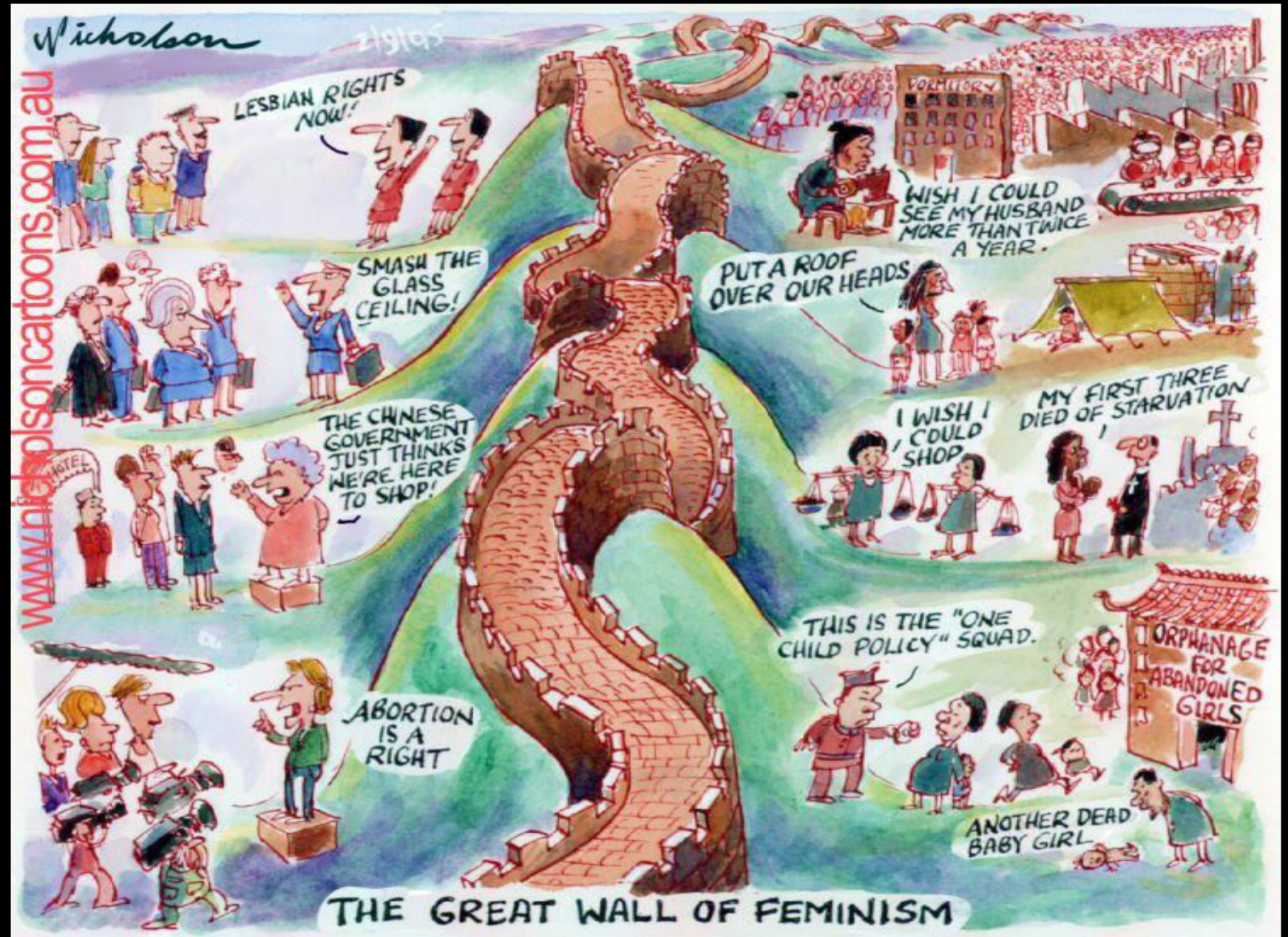
Feminist Psychology

- ▶ Women's movement of the late 1960's
- ▶ Backlash against the traditional assumptions of male dominated theory, research and practices, especially in psychoanalytic theory.
- ▶ Feminist Psychology was found by women who had become aware of the pressures of patriarchy, sexism and male chauvinism and that therapy and counseling were not exempt from these pressures.

Feminist Assumptions about Human Nature

- ▶ **Patriarchy:** We exist in a political and social system that is male dominated; Masculine behaviors and thought patterns are the norm
- ▶ **The Personal is Political:** In order for women to experience changes in personal lives, political changes (to social institutions) must occur
- ▶ Gender schemas/sex-role stereotypes limit development
 - In society, men have more power than women
 - Women are taught to rely on men

Feminism
has
different
meanings
in different
cultures



Feminist Psychology

- ▶ That women's oppression is **rooted within psychic structures** and reinforced by the **continual repetition or reiteration of relational dynamics formed in infancy** and childhood.
- ▶ **There are deeply engrained psychic patterns of gender and identity**
- ▶ Critical of Freudian and neo-Freudian notions of women as biologically, psychically, and morally inferior to men
- ▶ **The aim is to alter the experiences of early childhood and family relations, as well as linguistic patterns, that produce and reinforce masculinity and femininity.**

Psychoanalytic Feminism

- ▶ The two major schools of psychoanalytic feminism are Freudian and Lacanian.
- ▶ **Freudian feminists**, mostly Anglo-American, are more concerned with the **production of male dominance** and the development of gendered subjects in societies where women are responsible for mothering
- ▶ **Lacanian feminists**, mostly French, analyze links between **gendered identity and language**.

Freudian feminists

- ▶ Alfred Adler, Karen Horney and Clara Thompson
- ▶ Critiques of Freud “argued women’s social position and powerlessness relative to men had little to do with female biology and much to do with the **social construction of femininity.**”
- ▶ Reinterpreted some women’s neuroses as creative attempts to address ongoing **social subordination.**

Freudian feminists

- ▶ Karen Horney
 - ▶ Horney suggests that **women are believing the lie ingrained in them by men** that they like being feminine.
 - ▶ The healthy woman then is one who will move beyond her femininity to create an “**ideal self that will include masculine as well as feminine traits.**” “As soon as women learn to view themselves as men’s equals, society will have little if any power over them.”

Filipino culture through the lens of Feminist Psychological theory

- ▶ Precolonial Filipino history
 - Polytheism, *babaylan*, Malakas and Maganda mythology
- ▶ Sexism may have rooted in history of Catholic and Western colonization
- ▶ Filipinos adopted the Western and Christian perceptions about women
 - Relegated to the home
 - Tendency towards benevolent sexism
 - Strengthened perception of women as inferior and to be protected

Filipino culture through the lens of Feminist Psychological theory

- ▶ Women who are independent, strong and sexual are looked down upon, threatened, stigmatized, etc
- ▶ Case study: Characters in *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*
- ▶ Sisa, Maria Clara, Salome
- ▶ Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* may be an attempt to demystify the Filipina

Filipino culture through the lens of Feminist Psychological theory

- ▶ A hybrid of religious feminism and cultural sexism
- ▶ Importance of family values and collectivism may have been contributory to sexist attitudes
 - *Haligi/Ginang ng tahanan; Maybahay; Bahay bata; Nagdadalang tao; Pamamanhikan; Ligawan* and chivalry
 - *Inang Pilipinas (Motherland), Perlas ng Silangan (Pearl of the orient seas)*



Filipino culture through the lens of Feminist Psychological theory

► Case study: Corazon Aquino

- Media campaign is a devoted housewife, nurturing mother and religious woman; “pure” and uncorrupted vs. Marcos
- This perception prevailed over her inexperience as a political leader
- **Filipino psych appear to underscore mother-infant relationship, and values relationality, dependence and mothering**



Filipino culture through the lens of Feminist Psychological theory

- ▶ **Case study: Religion and the Filipino woman**
- ▶ Creation of man and woman
 - ▶ Malakas and Maganda come from the same bamboo ("equals")
 - ▶ Adam and Eve - Adam's rib was taken and given to ve
- ▶ Female figure in religion is associated with pre-colonial Philippines, and that its continuous emergence in cultural products and social practices is an important aspect of Filipino spirituality, religiosity and identity



Object relations theory and the Pinoy Oedipal complex

- ▶ **Filipino benevolent sexism** appear to be tied to males' reliance towards women for intimacy and caring relationships
 - the Virgin Mama Mary → nurturing, caring, feelings of security
 - Inang bayan, sinakop ng mga dayuhan → competition for love & resources
 - Justifying having an affair because the wife neglected the husband, because she was too busy with work (OFW and working women stories)

Pinay **empowerment** vs objectification

- ▶ Feminist grassroots movement in the Philippines may have contributed to the Filipina empowerment
- ▶ Philippines is number 7 in Global Gender Gap report of the World Economic Forum 2016 report
- ▶ Opportunities that advocate for women's rights such as education, employment, voting, leadership, free speech, access to healthcare, protection against violence

Pinay **empowerment** vs objectification

- ▶ Presence of women leaders in the Philippines
- ▶ Women's desk and VAWC that protect against violence
- ▶ Recent commercials and advertisements reflect women empowerment and gender equality in household and work roles

Pinay **empowerment** vs objectification



<http://www.youtube.com/user/proudlypinoytv>



Pinay empowerment vs objectification

- ▶ Benevolent sexism reinforces contributes to masculinist bias and sexist attitudes
 - “*Ang babae dapat nirerespeto, hindi binabastos.*” → intentions are anchored on *because she is a woman*, not as a person
 - the Maria Clara beauty (“Ang gusto ko sa babae **simple** lang”)
 - attractive and passive; reaction against Western aggression and liberalism
 - Pinoys may prefer to do the “chasing”; intimidated by “aggressive” and “liberated” women
 - Being *torpe* looked down upon

Role conflict of *Empowered Pinays*

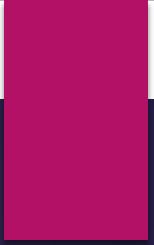
- ▶ Yes to getting a job, but take care of the kid as well!
- ▶ Yes to being single and independent, but having a family is important!
- ▶ Yes to getting an education and being smart, but be pretty as well!
- ▶ Yes to getting promoted, but don't be too bossy and ambitious! → Glass ceiling



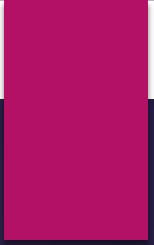
Despite initiatives and advances to decrease the gender gap in the Philippines, Filipino men and women are still sexist, due to cultural and religious orientations.



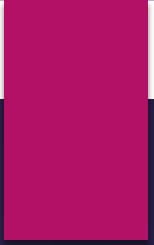
The Personal is Political: Reframing Gender Roles and Expectations



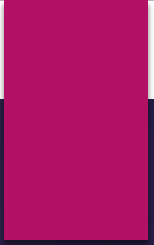
Understand the
sociopolitical history that
contextualizes gender
differences, and how it
shaped our Psyche



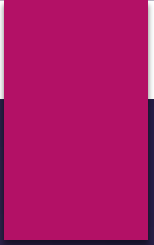
**Be aware of sexist biases
and attitudes, both hostile
and benevolent sexism**



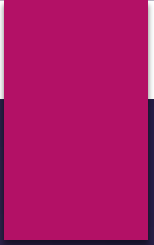
**Develop empathy for
women (and men!) who
experience gender
discrimination**



**Avoid blaming the victim,
to justify the system and
status quo**



**Change/modify family
dynamics to change
sexist attitudes**



Get to know male and
female role models who
defy gender roles and
expectations

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.



HERE IS TO STRONG WOMEN



**MAY WE KNOW THEM, MAY WE
BE THEM, MAY WE RAISE THEM**

THANK YOU!!!

spread the love~



chibird.tumblr.com