

Privilege & Power

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Which statements are to true for you personally?

- I have access to clean water and food
- I have access to education
- I have a job with a steady salary
- I am white
- I am cis-gender
- I'm heterosexual
- I never doubted that my parents would accept my sexuality
- I have never been sexually assaulted
- Nobody wants to touch my hair without asking
- I do not have to wait longer at security checks at the airport
- I am not randomly stopped by police without any given suspicion

What is privilege?

- What privileges do you have?

- Peggy McIntosh: privilege exists when one group has something of value that is denied to others simply because of the social category they belong to, rather than anything they have done or they have failed to do.
- James Baldwin: “No one was white before s/he came to America. It took generations, and a vast amount of coercion before this country became a white country.”

- James Baldwin: “To be white in America means not having to think about it.”

→ If you don't know about privilege, you probably are privileged

Evidence from Germany

- net income of 2700€/month → wealthy
- net income of more than 3600€/month → rich
- Who is that group? Mostly white men from West-Germany, highly educated and have their own businesses

Different kinds of capital and the elevator effect

- Social, cultural and financial capital (Pierre Bourdieu)
 - Habitus (behaviour, attitude, lifestyle) (also Bourdieu)
- Different kinds of capital can be transformed into others
- capital can result and influence the Habitus

Discrimination and forms of oppression

- Discrimination happens when someone does not have privileges – in the absence of privileges
- Systems of oppression: racism, sexism, ableism, lookism, capitalism among others

#metoo

#metwo

- The “invisible backpack of privileges” and the effort to make keep this backpack invisible (Peggy McIntosh)
e.g. declaring racism as an individual act
 - Privileges are made invisible by narratives of meritocracy
- but** this enhances the effect of privileges and inequality

More evidence from Germany

- 17% of variance in educational merit in school can be explained by the social status
- A child from a poorer social background is 5 times less likely to get university entrance level qualifications – this is especially true for children with migration background
- Children with a Turkish background are systematically underestimated by their teachers in school, regardless of their social background.
→ the difference between “Max and Murat”
- High-school graduates with a migration background are 15% less likely to go to university

Job applications

- Getting a positive response:
 - Sandra Bauer 18,8%
 - Meyrem Öztürk 13,5%
 - Meyrem Öztürk wearing a hijab 4,2%

In/equality in society

- The higher the job position, the higher the exclusion
- Myth of meritocratic society
- What does this mean for democracy?

What to do?

Check your privilege

Truth AND Dare

#staywoke

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