READING ANALYSES WEEK 6

Rebecca Wiltzen

HIST 2480-01: Gender Sexuality and History in Film

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The theme of this weeks reading was largely based on the gender constructions of our society and whether gender is the base with which we execute a political standing for the argument of equality. Both readings drew a large focus on the analyses of woman and what being a woman constitutes in a political standpoint. Scott from his work “Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference” argues the standpoint of the feminist saying that, “Equality that rests on differences – differences that confound, disrupt, and render ambiguous in meaning of any fixed binary opposition. To do anything else is to buy into the political argument that sameness is the requirement for equality.”[[1]](#footnote-1) What I believe Scott is saying is that equality in the political eye is not so transparent when incorporating gender. There are differences in gender that should be accounted for but that shouldn’t change the argument of equality among men and women, rather these differences are as he says, “Ambiguous in meaning” and therefore inconspicuous in the argument of equality. Butler from his work “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire” further elaborates and supports this argument in saying, “This rough sketch of gender gives us a clue to understand the political reasons for the substantializing view of gender,” he goes on to say, “The act of differentiating the two oppositional moments of the binary results in a consolation of each term.”[[2]](#footnote-2) From a political stand point he’s explaining that it is indeed beneficial for politics to have a divide in gender because it perpetuates the cultural ideology therefore avoiding a dialectic relationship of any kind.

Another idea that I picked up on was that was new to me is the idea that inequality in gender, for one, is extremely complex, but also that it can be found in a lot of common places. For example, Scott from his work “Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference” elaborates on a story about Sears and their trial with inequality of it’s workers and their fight for what’s right.[[3]](#footnote-3) It seems to be that I am ignorant to the fact that inequality can be perpetuated in many forms over various platforms and I believe in doing the readings this week that I am more aware. I believe that this new-found awareness will allow me to recognize and even stand-up for inequalities that I see in my own life thus allowing me to use my knowledge for an important cause.

**Bibliography**

Butler, J., “Subjects of Sex/Gander/Desire,” in *Gender Trouble*: 2-46.

Scott, J, “Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference,” *Feminist Studies,* 14, 1 (Spring, 1988):

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**Bibliography**

Bordo, S., “Never Just Picures,” in *Twilight Zones: The Hidden Life of Cultural Images*

Tuchman, Gaye, “*Woman’s Depiction by the Mass Media*,” Signs*,* 4,3 (Spring, 1979)

1. Scott, J, “Deconstructing Equality-versus-Difference,” *Feminist Studies,* 14, 1 (Spring, 1988): 48 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Butler, J., “Subjects of Sex/Gander/Desire,” in *Gender Trouble: 31* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Scott, “Deconstructing Equality,” 38 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)