ETHNIC GEOGRAPHY:
Ethnicity and Gender

APHG
What is ethnic geography?

• Focuses on spatial distributions & interactions of *ethnic groups* (people sharing a distinctive culture) & of the cultural characteristics on which they are based; often associated with a region/territory

• Word *ethnicity* is from the Greek “ethnos” meaning “people/nation” and refers to a group of people who share a common identity
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1) Often contribute to cultural landscapes
2) Ethnicity is often connected to religion and language
3) Can be modified by migration…\textit{acculturation} can help change identity i.e. now Irish-American

- Ethnicity represents a national heritage while \textit{race} refers to physical characteristics of a common genetic heritage
- Ex. My race is Caucasian and one of my ethnic groups is Czech
Multiculturalism

- **Multicultural**: having to do with many cultures
- **Plural society**: A society that contains various cultural groups. Such groups often occupy “niches” in the broader social system, such that the groups do not interact with each other except in limited and often mutually exploitive ways.
External vs. Internal Identity

- **External identity**: used by individuals to express their cultural heritage, ethnicity or place of origin to people who do not share a common background.

- **Internal identity**: used by individuals to express their cultural heritage, ethnicity or place of origin to people who share their cultural/geographic background.
What are power relationships?

- Assumptions/structures about who is in control, who has power over the others
- Shape cultural landscapes, causes segregation by enabling societies to enforce policies on who should be accepted
- Ex. Jim Crow laws separating areas into black and white only, gang territory, etc.
- Cultural shatterbelt: politically unstable region where different cultural elements come into contact and conflict
What are gender roles?

• **Gender**: social differences between women and men rather than biological differences; what is female or male varies greatly over time/space
• Ex. Different societies have different ideas about what jobs are appropriate for men and women
• Indonesia factory workers are mostly women because factory owners think women are less likely to strike, join unions, and easier to exploit
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- Some societies do not open up education to all; women are seen as homemakers and under the thumb of males in society
- In most of Asia and Africa wage earning women work in agriculture
- Job shortages often lead to women layoffs first; in some regions women are not allowed to own land or get loans from banks
What are some key terms?

- **Dowry death**: disputes over the price to be paid by the family of the bride to the father of the groom (the dowry) has lead to the death of the bride in some cases; India bride burning

- **Maternal mortality rate**: maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
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- **Infanticide**: (in law) the killing of a child under 12 months; seen as population control in some societies, religious or societal issues
- China & India- preference for males has lead to the killing of girls (1 million females missing)
- Some African societies see twins as supernatural and twins may be left to die
What is the gender gap?

- Unbalance in sex ratio
- Can refer to gender differences in society
- Ex. Income disparity of males and females
- More men in politics then women, etc.
- Certain genders live longer than others (longevity gap) ~ can also be other factors like ethnicity
What is the GDI/GEM?

- **Gender-Related Development Index**: measures achievement in social and economic issues for men and women and takes note of inequality between the sexes; in 2007 Australia had the highest GDI ranking.

- **Gender Empowerment Measure**: It examines the extent to which women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making; in 2007 Sweden had the highest GEM ranking.

- Both introduced from the UN 1995 Human Development Report.