

## **Power and Social Body**

### **Towards a New Vision Class, Race, and Gender September 10 (DAY 1)**

#### **September 11 1973-2001**

- Chile, the second longest democracy in Latin America, faced the horror of a USA sponsored and supported coup d'état.
- 42, 000 killed, many more tortured and disappeared.
- USA destroyed the democracy in Chile because the government did not protect its economic needs.
- In the presidential palace Dr. Jiron , Minister of Health, is one of the prisoners facing down the street. His daughter was a member of the Chilean volleyball team.
- On September 11, 2001, 19 men affiliated with al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. Each team hijackers included a trained pilot. Two planes (United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 11) crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, one plane into each tower (One and Two). Both
- towers collapsed within two hours. The pilot of the third team crashed a plane into Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia. Excluding 19 hijackers, a confirmed 2,973 people died and another 24 remain listed as missing as result of these attacks.

#### **Social commentary**

- **Serena Williams:** is she right in her outburst? Is she “too manly” for a woman? Is she “too aggressive for a woman?”
- She was not allowed to wear a tight black suit even though it was used for medical reasons.
- Why was she targeted? Is it because she is a women? Or a black women?
- What is the role of her body and her skin colour on the reaction she creates?

### **My office**

- I have a cartoon that was “on fire” last week. It said: “Play like girls!”
- The women team was doing amazing in the olympics mean while the men were doing awful.
- Somebody doesn’t like that message at York. Who? Why not?
- They felt insulted and burned just the words.

### **Critical Thinking**

- “A Critical thinker will ask, “is that really true? How do you know? Show me the evidence. Is that evidence reliable?”

## **Patricia Hill Collins**

- **Patricia Hill Collins** is a social theorist whose research, scholarship and activism have examined intersecting power relations of race, gender, social class, sexuality and/or nation. In 2007, she was elected the 100th President of the American Sociological Association, the first African American woman to hold this position in ASA's 104-year history.

## **Social Change**

- The first question that we should address here is Why Social Change? (social class)
- Why is Patricia Hill Collins suggesting that we need SOCIAL CHANGE?
- Canada has social change, there are immigrants from all of the world which have the ability to succeed. (success of immigration)

## **Power Relations**

- Professor Collins asks who has power in our society?
- In other words, how are power relations identified in today's world.
- ...not an easy task!

- Not all African American women are in trouble (Oprah) meanwhile white American man is in trouble(homeless).
- Divide and conquer
- Those in power say the more people are divided the better of we will be

### **Oppression is full of contradictions!**

- Thus, the need for new thoughts, new paradigms (new way of thinking) to make sense of the power relations in today's world.

### **“I am more oppressed than you”**

- Who is more oppressed than others? (women, working class, immigrants...)
- Easy mistake to be confined to narrow definitions of race, class and gender ... and not to see that these categories intersect and obscure the understanding of oppression.

### **New thinking! New acting!**

- “...new ways of thinking that are not accompanied by new ways of acting offer incomplete prospects for change.”

### **Stereotyping!**

- The “easy” understanding of human relations and understanding of each other cuts through labels that “simplify” the task of truly

getting to know each other.