Qube

be in · be out · belong

Intersectionality

Intersectionality (coined by black feminist Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw) refers to the multitude of different identities that people hold simultaneously.

What different identities do people have?

People are members of many different communities. Different communities a person may belong to include:

- Race
- Gender
- Class
- Sexual/romantic orientation
- Neighborhood/city/state

A person's overall identity cannot be boiled down to just one of these aspects; it's made up of all of these elements individually and collectively.

How do identities work individually and collectively?

Many people are familiar with how identies work in an individual sense. However, it's also important to consider how someone's multiple identities intersect to create unique experiences. Someone who is low income and white, for example, will likely have different experiences from someone who is low income and of color. A cisgender man will likely have different experiences from a transgender man. While both examples have an identity in common, they also have one that differs. They're likely to have some similar experiences and some that differ. The intersection of these identities yields an experience unique to that intersection.

How does intersectionality impact privilege & oppression?

Some identities experience privilege and some face oppression in society. Analyzing identity, privilege, and oppression through an intersectional lens is critical as a result. In the previous examples, one identity a person held is considered privileged, and one faces oppression. It's too simple to only consider one aspect of identity in these examples because they have unique experiences with privilege and oppression. Because of this, it's impossible to directly compare someone's level of oppression or privilege. A that an aspect of someone's identity is privileged without simplifying a person to just that identity. Every situation and person is different, rich, and unique because of these intersections.