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„What is Gender Essentialism?“

Abstract:

Gender essentialism is a controversial topic in feminist theory. But what is meant by gender essentialism? I begin by distinguishing two types of essentialism: kind essentialism and uniessentialism. The two essentialisms address different questions rather than supplying different answers to the same question. Kind essentialism addresses the issue of the classification of individuals into kinds. For example, the classification of persons into gender kinds (women, men, genderqueer). Uniessentialism addresses an entirely different issue, which is the metaphysical question of what grounds the unity of individuals with parts. I think that our gender is the principle of unity of our social agency and I explain why this idea is important for feminist theorizing today.