

Intro to studying subcultures

The grand story of subcultures tends to be narrated in English (centered on the U.S., U.K. and then globalized). Why?

A micro quizz

- What do we do in this course?
 - a) We look for the final definition of subcultures.
 - b) We perform an original research of a selected subculture.
 - c) We try to see how scholars thought of subcultures.**

Where is gender in all this?

- Are subcultures/popular culture/youth *gendered terms*?
- Ehm what does it mean a „gendered term“?
- Well... what is gender?
 - a) A fancier term for women.
 - b) It means both men and women but it mainly studies women and LGBT groups.
 - c) **A category of analysis which functions similar to class, ethnicity, age or 'race' – it allows for representations of our social worlds.**

Critical reading skills

- **When** was the text written? **Who** wrote it? What school/tradition/discipline is s/he affiliated to?
- **What problem** did s/he study and why?
- How did s/he approach it? Consider 1) **the disciplinary background** (sociology, philosophy, journalism etc.), 2) **the method** (How was the research executed, how was data collected etc.), and 3) **the style** of the text (How is it written? How is information distributed in the text and communicated to the reader?)

Discussion - preparation

- **What** does this text discuss? What main problem is identified?
- Highlight and summarize some of the substantial claims this text proposes. (**How?** Ideas, claims, assumptions, evidence, reasoning...)
- On p.32, the author claims "The small community often tolerates eccentricity. The city, on the contrary, rewards it." How do you understand this claim? (**Discussion**)
Consider its meaning with respect to the text as well as with respect to your experience, your knowledge of city life.
(**Contextualize, historicize!**)
- Think about the place you come from. Could Park's suggestions be applied to it? If not, why? (**Personalize!**)

Group work: design a research!

- p.32 “The attraction of the metropolis is due in part, however, to the fact that in the long run every individual finds somewhere among the varied manifestations of city life the sort of environment in which he expands and feels at ease; finds, in short, ***the moral climate*** in which his peculiar nature obtains the stimulations that bring his innate dispositions to full and free expression.”
- *How do you understand this assumption?*

Group work: design a research!

- “It is, *I suspect*, motives of this kind which have their basis, not in interest nor even in sentiment, but in something more fundamental and primitive which draw many, if not most, of the young men and young women from the security of their homes in the country into the big, booming confusion and excitement of city life.”
- *This proposition is not backed up by evidence. How would you proceed to verify/refute it?*