

MINI VOCABULARY / QUEER + CRIP

Queer

Queer has been a slur for sexual and gender minorities or those not conforming to gender norms. It has later been appropriated by queer activist movement to celebrate all things anti-heteronormative. Queer can be an identity, a way of political thinking and activity to resist and dismantle the heteronorm and the supposition that everyone is either male or female and even heterosexual. In fact, to define an identity as a norm actually admits the 'constitutive outside' of that norm and becomes dependent on it by definition, creating a binary. Queerfeminism questions gender further than more traditional feminisms. Queer reveals that gender is not a thing that you are but more a thing that you do.

Crip

Crip is a short for an English word 'cripple'. The term was formerly used as a pejorative for people with disabilities or sickness. Along with the disability activism of the 60's and 70's the term was re-owned and repurposed by the people with disabilities and used in a provocative and even ironic manner. The contemporary use of the term bases on inclusivity and intersectionality. Meaning that it includes all disabilities varying from physical impairments to chronic illnesses and regards intersecting identities. In other words the term has been appropriated to reinforce positive meanings related to disability and self-determination plays a huge role in it. The origin and use of the term can slightly be compared to the similar development in the use of the term queer. There is no Finnish translation for the term.

Posthumanism

"Time after the human", refusing and giving up centralizing human. Contemporary philosophical focus that challenges normative notions of the centrality and omnipotentiality of human. The emphasis has shifted from the human to regard broader entities, meaning that the human being is seen as part of the ecological world as any other organism. Humans do not have entitlement to abuse nature and use it for their own good only. Posthumanism is critical of the omnipotentiality of reason, which was a defining trait of classical humanism. The ability of human mind to comprehend the universe, society or even themselves is limited.

Intersectional Feminism

Intersectional feminism criticises traditional universal notion according to which for example all the women share the same experience. Intersectional feminism takes into account intersecting identities (related to ethnicity, social class, age, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, citizenship or beliefs) and aims at equality for all.

Expert by Experience

Expertise gained by experience means skills that is gathered through a long-term personal experience and internalized knowledge. A person who is an expert by experience usually has will and ability to make use of one's experiences for the benefit of others in different contexts. Being an expert by experience should always be voluntary and nobody can be forced or obligated into that position. An example of an expert by experience in racism could be a person who has experienced systemic racism.

Gaze

In the visual culture and arts gaze means the processes of what and how something is seen by the spectator and shown by the media. Gaze is an active process of being in relation to one's surroundings and others. Therefore gaze also includes power: it is a conscious or an unconscious decision to encounter things or being in a certain way. Repeated gazes often become hegemonic. One of these hegemonic gazes is male gaze.

Normativity

Normative thinking is thinking that takes a stance on what is right, desirable and good and on the other hand what is bad, shameful and wrong. Normativity is a way to evaluate things from the perspective of existing norms. Examples of such norms are heterosexism (only heterosexuality is normal and deviations from it abnormal), ableism (only able-bodiedness is normal and deviations from it abnormal). Norms can create both inclusion and exclusion.

Binary thinking

Thinking in an either-or way meaning a mindset according to which there is no possibility for something to exist between two "opposites" or the in-between space is left completely without attention. This way of thinking is typical for Western philosophical tradition and for that quite common. When one thinks in a binary way, one has only two options to begin with. Nothing beyond the binary can be imagined or accepted and these binaries tend to be regarded as fixed and universal. Examples of such binaries are female-male, nature-culture, child-adult, sick-healthy, homo-hetero, life-death.

Ideal

Satisfying one's conception of what is perfect; most suitable. Existing only in the imagination; desirable or perfect but not likely to become a reality.

Social Class

Socio-economic group (social class) is a central measure used to indicate the social division in a society. Demographic living in a certain society is divided by education, wealth and professional status into groups or classes, that have unequal possibilities to act in a monetary, social and political way inside the society. The life situation that one is in is also a factor that affects one's status in a society.

Ableism

Ableism is a systemic political, institutional, or societal structure, attitude or action (discrimination) which regards disability and illness as something undesirable, wrong and "other." Internalized ableism takes place when a person with disability or illness internalizes these ideas and starts to regard themselves in this way.

PoC

A short for people/person/persons of color. The term today is used to describe any person who is not considered white. The term encompasses all non-white people, emphasizing common experiences of systemic racism. The term may also be used with other collective categories of people such as "communities of color", "men of color" (MOC), and "women of color" (WOC).

Gender fluid

Gender fluid is a gender or gender expression which can vary and/or alter over time and social contexts.

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<https://bit.ly/2HTyORi>

