Gender
What is gender, and do you think it plays a role in international relations? If so, how?
Gender

- Feminist approaches to IR
  - Liberal
  - Marxist/Socialist/Critical
  - Constructivist
  - Post-Colonial
  - Post-Modern
Gender

- Classic gender role
  Stereotype

- Reality: according to a 2007 study, men are 77% higher risk of dying in car accident than women
Gender

What is Gender?

- Social/culture construction
- Power, autonomy, rationality, public masculine
- Weakness, dependence, emotionality, private feminine
- Masculinity and femininity are relational
- Gender characteristics are generally unequal: positive value ascribed to masculine characteristics
Gender

- **Feminist questions for IR**
  - Where are the women in positions of political or military leadership?
  - How are the types of power necessary to keep unequal gender structures in place perpetuated?
  - Does it make any difference to states’ policy practices that their foreign and security policies are often legitimated through appeals to various types of masculinity?
Gender and Security

- Myth of protection
- Strong connection between masculinity and war
  - Focus on physical capabilities or threat thereof
- Feminist approach
  - Diminution of all forms of violence
  - Bottom-up
Gender and Economy

- Women disproportionately at the bottom of the socio-economic scale
- Much work not considered ‘gainful employment’
  - Housewife versus breadwinner
- Pushed into lower paid occupations
- Corporations take advantage of subservient gender role to lower wages