The Impact of a President’s Gender in Argentine and Brazilian Politics: Name-calling in YouTube Comment Sections

By: Faty-Sharon Sylla

Language and gender interact in more ways than we tend to think. The way we interact with each other is often ruled by how we perceive one another, and gender is one determining factor of identity. Our research aims to identify the ways in which female and male presidents are talked about by the general population and the correlation to their gender. We chose to observe Argentinian presidents Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and Nestor Kirchner, as well as Brazilian presidents Dilma Rousseff and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. We used Youtube commenters as our informants to keep a transparency as most comments are unfiltered, unlike articles, which would not allow for the raw language used by internet users. We focused on the pessimistic comments for both female and male presidents as a way to compare the types of name calling.

We first found that female presidents were subjected to more negative comments than their male counterparts and that, moreover, most of the negative comments toward the females had a relation to their gender, unlike male presidents, who received comments in relation to their comportment, their social class, or their educational background. This shows that sexism is embedded in the way we use language and influences the ways in which we perceive people, even when they hold the same position; their only difference being their gender.

Concepts of Womanhood within New Black Womanhood and Third Wave Feminism

By: Dru Spiller

Although the term had only started to be discussed in scholarly sociological circles in the early 70’s, the concept and ideas behind intersectionality, or how various categories of oppression work together, were around without a name for a very long time. In particular, it pervaded the work of black women writers from Zora Neale Hurston of the Harlem Renaissance to Carolyn Rodgers during the Black Nationalism and Black Arts Movements and continues to be seen in spoken word artists like Staceyann Chin. Black women have the unique experience of being on the lower rungs of not one, but two categories of oppression: race and gender. It was within these intersections of race and gender as well as the Black Power Movement that birthed a concept called “New Black Womanhood”. The concept was mostly used by revolutionary black men who felt that with the changing of ideals for black community meant a militant man and a docile woman to serve by his side. However, the idea of New Black Womanhood did not readily suit the revolutionary women within the movement. Their legacy continued and in the contemporary era there have been several successful pushes for women to define who they are as a woman. This paper will analyze two sets of poems in relation to each other as the authors situate themselves in redefining who they are as women. The first set being analyzed are “Revolutionary Dreams” by Nikki Giovanni and “The Last M.F.” by Carolyn Rodgers. In these poems the poets are able to situate all of their identities as their natural selves within the context of their own revolution. In Audre Lorde’s “Who Said It Was Simple” and Staceyann Chin’s spoken “Poem for the Gay Games”, the poets have been limited in expressing all parts of their identity by a movement that seeks to be inclusive, but ends up erasing the idiosyncrasies of identity in women who do not live the heterosexual, middle-class, white woman version of mainstream feminism.