

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN GENDER  
FEBRUARY 1 – 5, 2021**

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You are required to answer THREE (3) QUESTIONS (ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF PARTS A, B & C). Each answer should be 10-12 pages (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

**Part A**

1. Rather than invoking “the patriarchy,” contemporary feminist scholars have adopted a range of alternative approaches to the problem of women in society, including Marxist, intersectional, and post-structural perspectives. Select two of these alternative approaches and explicate their respective strengths and weaknesses.
2. Compare and contrast feminist political economy approaches with intersectional and multiracial feminist analysis. Where, if anywhere, are the productive synergies between these approaches? What about conceptual tensions?

**Part B**

3. Raewyn Connell (1987:97) argues that labour, power and cathexis are “empirically the key structures of the field of gender relations.” Pick one of these structures and critically review empirical literature related to it. What are the most important contributions in this body of work? What is underdeveloped? What are the most exciting new directions?
4. Compare and contrast North American scholarship on work and organizations to studies of global labour in terms of how they analyze gender. Do you think more conversation between these fields would be fruitful? Why/why not? How so?

**Part C**

5. Adrienne Rich and Catherine Mackinnon each expound upon the problem of women and sexuality in patriarchal systems from a radical feminist perspective. Can you integrate the two theoretical approaches? How do they compare and what are their differences?
6. Discuss how and to what extent the sociology of gender contends with race and racism theoretically and empirically. In doing so, compare and contrast two empirical subfields in the comp reading list—one that seems attentive to the question of race, and the other that does not. Finally, offer your suggestion of how the sociology of gender as a field should address race at the intersection with gender.