



# University of HUDDERSFIELD

## University of Huddersfield Repository

Monro, Surya

Gendered Identities and Intersectionality: Where next?

### Original Citation

Monro, Surya (2013) Gendered Identities and Intersectionality: Where next? In: Troubling Gender: The Question of Multiple Identities conference, 24th May 2013, Sheffield, UK. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/18160/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: [E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk](mailto:E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk).

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

## **Gendered Identities and Intersectionality: Where next?**

- Gender has always been a central concern to Intersectionality theorists, right from its introduction by Kimberley Crenshaw in 1991 when she used it to mean a crossroads or intersection between different identities and its development by theorists subsequently by authors such as Leslie McCall.
- It does a number of important things theoretically including (following McCall):
  - Combining materialist analysis with poststructuralist thought (anticategorical, intracategorical, intercategorical)
  - Developing the notion of strategic essentialism
  - Providing a means to interrogate within-group differences
  - Providing means to address privilege, as well as structural barriers and marginalisations – and the complex ways in which we are all sited at positions of both privilege and marginalisation, with forces sometimes combining, sometimes working in opposite directions
  - Providing means of addressing both foundational categories and specific agentic subjectivities

THEREFORE I think it is a case of further developing and exploiting Intersectionality theory rather than any paradigm shift per se. BUT in terms of gender:

- There is a dearth of trans and intersexual Intersectionality (with the exception of eg Emily Grabham's work)
- Gender pluralist challenges to rigid sex/gender/sexuality binaries, and binary-based feminism and masculinity studies, could be developed using intersectional theory
- There is a need for further work around non-heterosexualities (though some done including Diane Richardson and my work, my work in Sociology on sexuality and space)
- Intersectionality theory tends to be US and Western-based – it has tremendous potential to address issues around national and ethnic inequalities, drawing on postcolonial theory
- Whilst the early work and some subsequent work drew on critical race theory, there is a need to further develop this in the context of hyperdiversity and globalisation
- Some aspects of Intersectionality theory (eg McCall's intercategorical approach) are especially well suited to application to difficult contemporary social/political issues such as the relationship between homophobic faith and sexuality equalities.
- In policy terms, Intersectionality has entered the public realm in the UK (e.g. EHRC takes multi-strand approach – evidence of intersectional thinking in SELG research) but this is problematic as well as useful (subsumes differences/weakens identity-politics bases) which can in turn provide critical insights re Intersectionality theory.