

Anthropology 2240
Impact of Material Aspects of Life on Gender and Social Inequality
Summary of Theses and Orienting Questions

Foraging

Orienting Questions

- Is gendered division of labour universal? Natural?
- Are all types of economic systems prone to social and power differences? With women subordinate to men?
- Do egalitarian societies actually exist?

Thesis

- Gender roles exist to create an efficient food collection system
- Ideologies of gender inequality do not exist

Horticulture and Pastoralism

Orienting Questions

- Who takes on the primary tasks in food growing and animal raising societies?
 - Do the seeming stereotypes of woman the grower and man the herder hold up?
- How do family structures change in these societies and what impact does that have on social equality?
- How is matrilineality related to mode of production and what advantages does it give to women?

Thesis

- Inequality starts here
 - Related to property surpluses, increasing sedentism
 - Gender becomes a significant marker for roles people play
- But ideologies of inequality don't have to start here
 - Variation exists
 - Much is dependent on the type of descent and other cultural factors