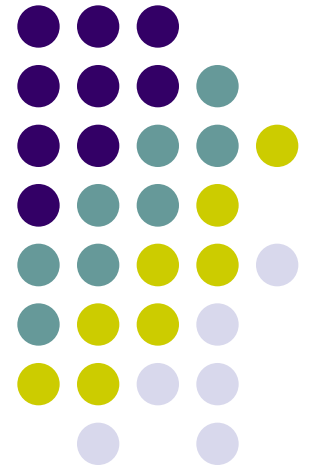
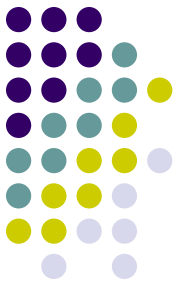


# Standpoint Theory

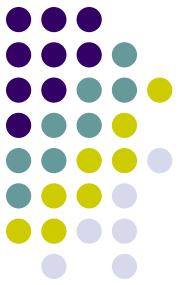
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# Focus: Own voices & resisting



- power shape our communication.
- knowledge generated from the everyday lives of people.
- communication of individuals are largely shaped by the social groups of which they are members.
- subjective – there is no objective standard for measuring standpoints.
- Standpoints come from resisting those in power and refusing to accept the way that society defines their group



# Nancy Hartsock.

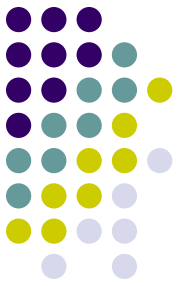
- Hegel - discussions of the different standpoints and perspectives present in the master-slave relationship.
- Marx – focuses on men
- Feminist Standpoint Theory- examined notions of sex (male and female) and gender (masculinity and femininity)



# Feminism

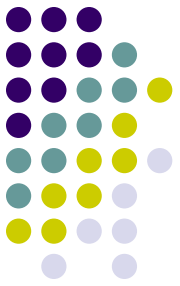
- Feminism - a focus on women's particular social position and a desire to end subjugation based on sex or gender.
- Standpoint is used with other cultural groups

# Influence



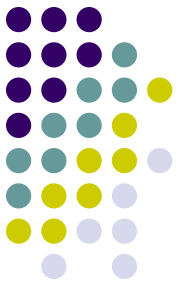
- Chafetz (1997)
- 1. Sex or gender is a central focus of the theory.
- 2. Sex or gender relations are viewed as problematic, and the theory seeks to understand how sex or gender is related to inequities and contradictions.
- 3. Sex or gender relations are viewed as changeable.
- 4. Feminist theory can be used to challenge the status quo when the status quo debases or devalues women.

# Hartsock: five assumptions



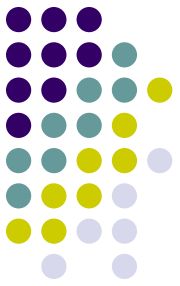
- 1. Material life (or class position) structures and limits understandings of social relations.
- 2. When material life is structured in two opposing ways for two different groups, the understanding of the dominant group can be both partial and harmful.
- 3. The ruling group often structures life so as to remove choices from the subordinate group and all subordinate groups are forced to participate in the structure created by the ruling group.

# Assumptions



- 4. The vision available to an oppressed group represents struggle and an achievement.
- 5. The understanding of the oppressed (the standpoint) makes visible the inhumanity of the existing relations among groups and creates a move toward a better and more just world

# Sexual division of labor



- 1. This refers to the assignment of people to different tasks on the basis of sex and the exploitation that results from inequities in sex and wages.
- 2. Domestic work is often viewed as being unworthy of wages.
- 3. Hirschmann (1997) notes that a feminist standpoint “enables women to identify the activities they perform in the home as ‘work’ and ‘labor’ productive of ‘value’.”