

## **PANEL 1: INEQUALITY**

### **Public policy vs. public practice on gender discrimination in the workplace today**

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This essay analyses a public policy vs. public practice on gender discrimination in the workplace today, focusing primarily on women. It will use primary research to gain information on how women perceive their discrimination at work and investigate what public policies have been put into place in the UK in the last 10 years and whether these have been successful. The essay will theoretically be from a feminist standpoint providing a review of second wave feminism that focused on equality laws through to today's modern feminists. Although the research will be primarily based on all women it will consider the impact of how women of different class and race are discriminated against using an intersectional feminist view. This dissertation will ask two main questions; do in 2017 women still feel discriminated in the workplace and how has public policy impact women's access to the workplace.

### **Dystopian film – what does it tell us about ourselves and society?**

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Since the 1890's film producers have been striving to create authentic and often controversial films. Contemporary franchises generate an obscene amount of revenue if successful. Dystopian film has provided some of the most talked about content in modern history with franchises such as The Hunger Games securing 3.2 billion (USD) box office sales. The ideals provided throughout the storyline of not just The Hunger Games franchise but other dystopian films such as Divergent imply a struggle for perfection within a fictional society. This, however can represent issues in the real world. For example the ideals portrayed in The Hunger Games run almost parallel with communist society and Marx's concept of a system that enforces a dominance of the ruling classes. This dissertation analyses the links between fictional dystopian themes and those prevalent in society (past, present and future) to identify social anxieties and the psychological demand for dystopian content.

### **Passive Princess or Headstrong Heroine: The performativity of the female protagonist in the fairy tale Snow White and the moral effects on children.**

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Throughout history, women have often been referred to as 'the weaker sex'. Literature, in particular folklore and fairy tales, has often been used to instruct and warn of the dangers and consequences of not conforming to specific societal norms. Children are 'scared' into obedience and are subconsciously fed ideas of behaviours and cultural beliefs based on what they are taught. With the introduction of feminist and gender studies by critics such as Judith Butler and Helen Cixous, we are able to examine the changing ideas of the performativity of the female character.

This dissertation will explore the changes throughout history to society, and how these advances have attempted to influence the way in which the modern-day fairy tale no longer relies on a prince charming to save the day. It will also analyse the contradictions that fairy tales still rely on the idea

of beauty to empower a woman, and that despite the advancements of feminist critics, children still have a very fixed understanding of gender roles.

It will look closely at the Grimm Brothers 'Snow White' and compare this to more recent written versions, before looking at how the character has attempted to progress to independent heroine in films such as 'Snow White and the Huntsman'.

### **How are Muslim females affected in the workforce and how do they overcome barriers such as oppression and prejudice?**

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The research will focus on Muslim females in the workforce, looking at factors affecting Muslim females such as oppression, prejudice, racism and patriarchy. Due to societal changes, more and more females are entering the workforce and taking up positions such as managerial roles, the research will look at the 'veil' and the 'hijab' how this has an impact of Muslim females at work.

Method: The research will consist of primary data; questionnaires and followed-up by interviews will be used. The sampling method will be opportunity sampling, participants are readily available and convenient to the research.

Rationale: The topic is a personal interest, the researcher wants to see if other Muslim females are affected in the workforce. This research will be contemporary due to limited research carried out on Muslim females in the work force and limited research which focuses on issue faced by females in the workforce.

### **Underclass analysis- The implications of Class Division**

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It is suggested that the underclass is a social construct designed to strain inner group individuals (Merton, 1957) and as such this is the research starting point. The aim on the proposed project is to critically analyse the causes of class division, focusing on the underclass. It will be secondary research based and will draw mainly from behaviourist and psychological perspectives. Existing theories that will be considered will be Merton's Strain theory, Becker's labelling theory, Marxist theories and Deprivation theory, although this is not an exhaustive list. The alienation of individuals based on their strata, government policy from Victorian times, will be also explored aiming to challenge relations to crime. The research will be divided into sections in order to highlight existing debates and issues. It will aim to correlate its findings with local town Peterborough social class and crime rate. The results will be compared to identify causes of class division, to find a correlation with crime and to provide suggestions promoting social inclusion.