

Glossary

Non-English words are in italics. Words in bold type in the definitions have their own entries in the glossary.

Affinal. Related by marriage.

Anti-essentialism. A current of intellectual thought that criticizes **essentialism** and argues that persons and groups of people have identities that are multiple and shifting.

Assisted conception. See **Assisted Reproductive Technologies**.

Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs). Technologies used to help people with fertility problems to conceive children. Includes **in vitro fertilization**, **surrogacy**, sperm donation, etc.

Autodafé. A proceeding of the Spanish Inquisition in which people were tried and punished as heretics and sinners.

Biological fundamentalism. A form of **essentialism** which holds that a person or group of people is fundamentally and importantly defined by biological (especially genetic) make-up.

Citizenship. The condition or status of being a citizen, that is, a legally recognized member of a **nation-state**.

Cognatic kinship. A mode of reckoning **kinship** in which roughly equal weight is given to maternal and paternal connections.

Cultural fundamentalism. A form of **essentialism** which holds that the culture of a person or group is deeply engrained, not easily subject to change, and defines the person or group in fundamental ways, which are often thought to make it hard for people of different cultures to get along harmoniously.

Cultural racism. A form of **racism** in which a discourse of **race**, which focuses on identifying people in terms of physical appearance and linking this to cultural behaviour, is muted or absent. Instead, the same people are discriminated against simply as the bearers of cultural and moral traits deemed inferior or negative.

Cultural relativism. The theory that there is no single, universal standard or set of cultural values.

Culture. See **Nature/Culture**.

DNA. Deoxyribonucleic acid. One of two types of molecules that encode genetic information.

Donor gametes. Gametes (sperm, eggs) that have been donated by men and women for use in assisted reproductive technologies.

Egg donation. The giving of eggs (ova) by one woman to another who has fertility problems.

Essentialism. A style of thought that seeks to characterize a thing, or set of things, in terms of a single internal essence. Often used in relation to thinking that does this with regard to people or social categories of people (e.g., ‘women’, ‘whites’, etc.).

Estatutos de limpieza de sangre (statutes of the cleanliness of blood). Legislation enacted from the fifteenth century in Christian Spain to discriminate against people thought to be ‘tainted’ with Jewish and Arab descent or ‘blood’.

Ethnicity. (There is no agreed definition of this complex term.) A social means of classifying perceived human difference, which relies mainly on ideas about culture and behaviour, but focuses above all on common origins and may also include ideas about genealogy and inherited characteristics.

Ethnography. A practice most associated with anthropology, which involves detailed study of the everyday cultural practices and social relationships of people.

Eugenics. A social reform movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that focused on controlling the reproduction (especially sexual) of people in order to produce ‘fitter’ (healthier, stronger, more morally upstanding) national populations. It encompassed interventions into practices of child rearing, but was best known for campaigns to sterilize individuals deemed to be ‘unfit’ or ‘feeble-minded’. It was linked to **racism**, in that certain (non-European) ‘races’ were thought to be inherently less fit than others.

Gamete. A male’s sperm or a female’s ovum (egg).

Gene. A unit of heredity composed of DNA in one or more locations on a chromosome.

Genealogy. Relationships of descent from an ancestor; the study and charting of such relationships.

Geneticization. A process in which genes are used to explain human behaviour. (Less commonly: the increasing public profile of the gene as an icon.)

Genetics. The scientific study of heredity and variation in organisms, based on the analysis of genes and DNA.

Genomics. The mapping and sequencing of DNA with the use of computational techniques.

Gestational surrogacy. A form of surrogate motherhood in which the surrogate mother gestates an embryo made from another couple’s own **gametes**.

Governmentality. A term coined by French theorist Michel Foucault, joining ‘governance’ and ‘mentality’ to indicate how people and societies could be governed by shaping mentalities.

IVF. In vitro fertilization. The fertilization of ova by sperm ‘in a test-tube’, i.e. in the laboratory.

***Jus sanguinis*.** (Literally, the law of blood.) The principle that a person’s nationality at birth is determined by that of his/her biological parents.

Jus soli. (Literally, law of the soil.) The principle that a person's nationality at birth is determined by the national territory within which s/he was born.

Kinning. A term coined by Signe Howell. It is the process in which families work to incorporate individuals who are not biologically related and convert them into people accepted as kin.

Kinship. A way of classifying humans according to notions of 'relatedness', in which what is thought to create relatedness varies according to cultural context. In Western contexts, an important (but not the only) means of creating relatedness is thought to be by the 'blood' links that result from sexual reproduction.

Levirate. The practice in which a man marries the widow of his brother.

Listserv. A generic term, derived from Listserv® email list-management software, for email lists, newsletters and discussion groups.

Mitochondrial DNA. DNA that is located outside of the nucleus of the cell, which is where all other DNA is located. Mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother.

Multiculturalism. An ideology that favours and values the harmonious coexistence of several different cultures in one **nation-state** and that aims to create spaces in the institutions of the state, and in everyday life, for the recognition of cultural diversity.

Nation. An 'imagined community' (B. Anderson) of people thought to be bound together by shared history and culture, usually having or desiring political sovereignty and thus forming a **nation-state**.

Nationalism. An ideology and sentiment of identifying with a **nation**, and usually of claiming political sovereignty for the nation as a **nation-state**.

Nation-state. A nation that has independent political sovereignty and is ruled over by a single state.

Naturalization. The process of attributing natural causes and characteristics to social phenomena, making what is cultural seem natural.

Nature/Culture. A key conceptual distinction in Western thought, the terms of which have changed meaning over time and do not each have single meanings. In simple terms, the dualism alludes to the idea that there is a realm of nature, independent of human action, which is distinct from the realm of culture, seen as created by human action. The two realms are seen as interacting with each other. They overlap most in the area of 'human nature', which addresses the fact that humans are seen as themselves the product of nature and sharing a common natural humanity, while also apparently being 'above nature' in terms of their cultural accomplishments. Humans have thus often been conceptualized as having a natural component, sometimes seen as a biological (or genetic) substrate, which is overlain by a cultural component, often understood as modifying or domesticating the natural drives.

New Reproductive Technologies. See **Assisted Reproductive Technologies**.

Ontology. A branch of metaphysics that examines the nature of being. In social science, it refers to what is involved, at a fundamental level, in being a certain type of person.

Orientalism. The term gained currency with Edward Said's book *Orientalism* (1978) and has come to mean an academic practice of knowledge gathering and production which sustains a stereotyped view of the Orient (and, by extension, other non European regions or peoples) and underwrites colonialist domination.

Parthenogenesis. A form of reproduction in which an unfertilized egg develops into a new individual organism.

Patriline. Lines of genealogical descent reckoned through the father's side.

Perestroika. The economic restructuring of the Soviet economy begun in 1987 under Mikhail Gorbachev.

Pharmacogenomics. The study of how genetic make-up influences the body's response to drug treatments.

Phenotype. The physical constitution of an organism as shaped by the interplay of genes and environment; physical appearance.

PNV. Partido Nacionalista Vasco (Nationalist Basque Party), founded 1895.

Pro-natalism. A belief that promotes high birth rates.

PUG. Public Understanding of Genetics: an abbreviation for the research project which gave rise to this volume ('Public Understanding of Genetics: a Cross-cultural and Ethnographic Study of the "New Genetics" and Social Identity', directed by Dr Jeanette Edwards (University of Manchester) and funded by the EU).

Race. (There is no agreed definition of this complex term.) A social means of classifying perceived human difference, operative in the European sphere of influence in varied forms since about the fourteenth century, which relies on ideas about inheritance and physical appearance, especially when these are seen to characterize geo-continental human variation. Race is generally thought not to have any scientific validity as a biological category.

Racialization. The application of racial ways of thinking to diverse human phenomena; a particular racial mode of **naturalization**.

Racism. Discrimination and prejudice directed against people identified as racially different (see **Race**); an ideology in which certain aspects of physical appearance are taken to indicate certain moral and cultural traits, deemed inferior or negative.

Sajudis. A movement, established in 1988, for the democratization of Lithuanian society.

Schneider, David. U.S. anthropologist who revolutionized the study of **kinship**, asserting that not all kinship systems were based on biology and ideas of 'blood' relatedness and that anthropologists had unawares been smuggling in the assumption that a biological grid of relatedness underlay all cultures' ideas of kinship.

Stem cell. A type of 'master cell', which, in humans, can grow into any one of the body's more than 200 cell types. Stem cells can be derived from embryos and are used in medical research.

Substantialization. A process in which aspects of human behaviour and relationships are explained or talked about in relation to certain substances, usually seen as natural and often located in the body, such as 'blood', 'genes', or the physical substance of the body itself.

Surrogacy. Shorthand for surrogate motherhood, in which a woman gestates an embryo on behalf of another couple who have fertility problems. The embryo can be formed from the surrogate's egg artificially fertilized with the sperm of the couple, or can be formed from the couple's own gametes (**gestational surrogacy**).

Transnational adoption. Adoption in which the adopting parents come from a different nation-state (usually in Europe and North America) from the adopted child (who usually comes from a developing country, Eastern Europe or Russia).

Y chromosome. A chromosome that only males carry.

