



# Identity, Power, and Action

## Week 3 - Day 1

Understand our **individual** and **collective identities** and how those identities **inform** our **analyses of society**.

# Discussion of Homework Assignment

*My Identity is a Superpower Not an Obstacle*, by America Ferrera

- What are examples of varied identities that Ferrera mentions?
- When she got the role of Ana in *Real Women have Curves*, how was it different from the roles that she had been auditioning for?
- Why is it important, like Ferrera says, to not “identify the good guys and the bad guys”?

# Representation: seeing one's identity reflected in popular culture and positions of power.

- Only two out of every 10 lead film actors (or 19.8 percent) were people of color in 2017 while the nation's population is **nearly 40 percent non-white.**
- About 22 percent of the House and Senate is nonwhite. But that's still much less than the overall US population.

# Cultural Assimilation: Adjusting one's own cultural, language, or appearance to fit that of a *dominant group*.

What is a melting pot?

both claims can be true.” - Peter Skerry



**Internalized Oppression/Racism** – when one group perceives an inequality of value relative to another group, and desires to be like the more highly-valued group.

“I thought sunscreen and straightening irons would bring about change in this deeply entrenched value system. But what I realized in that moment was that I was never actually asking the system to change. I was asking it to let me in, and those aren't the same thing. I couldn't change what a system believed about me, while I believed what the system believed about me. And I did. I, like everyone around me, believed that it wasn't possible for me to exist in my dream as I was..”

- America Ferrera, *My Identity is a Superpower, Not an Obstacle*

# Representation discussion

How can changing representation affect internalized oppression and racism?

What types of representation are important for people to see in media and positions of power?

# Reflection

- Learning Blog for Week 3, Day 1

# Homework (before next class)

- Reading Assignment & EBinder Notes