

Intersectionality

Sociology

Crenshaw's argument that categories combine rather than add.

The claim that positions such as race, gender and class interact to produce experiences that analysing each category separately cannot capture.

COINED

Crenshaw, 1989

ORIGIN

employment law

- Crenshaw, 1989, from anti-discrimination law.
- A claim could fail as neither race nor sex alone.
- Effects can combine, not simply stack up.
- Groups at the intersection become statistically invisible.
- Roots in Black feminist thought, not new in 1989.
- Now used far beyond its legal origin.

LOOK FOR IT

DeGraffenreid v. General Motors: the firm hired white women and Black men, so neither single claim succeeded.

Educational reference. Testing interaction effects statistically is demanding: cell sizes shrink fast as categories multiply.