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

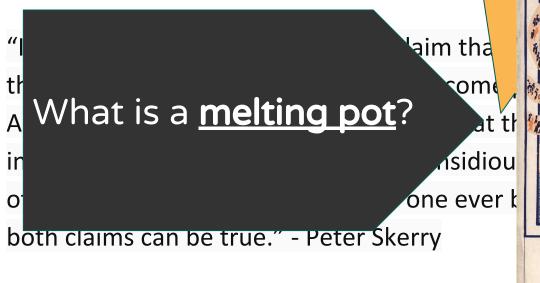
- What are examples of varied identities that Ferrera mentions?
- When she got the role of Ana in *Real Women have Curves*, how was it different from the roles that she had been auditioning for?
- Why is it important, like Ferrera says, to not "identify the good guys and the bad guys"?

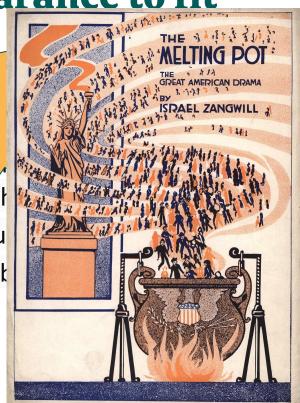
Representation: seeing one's identity reflected in popular culture and positions of power.

- 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.

<u>Cultural Assimilation</u>: Adjusting one's own cultural, language, or appearance to fit

that of a dominant group.





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