**Week 6: Introduction to Gender Inequalities; Patriarchal Societies**

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

Having completed the overview of key theoretical concepts in sociology last week, this week examines gender inequalities. In addition to one of the key readings in the field, it also features two Ted talks that offer drastically different ideas about what constitutes gender equality in the US and how it can be achieved.

1. What is patriarchy according to Johnson?
2. According to Johnson, does the term patriarchy imply that all men are oppressors? Explain your answer.
3. What does Johnson mean by the “system?” How does it relate to patriarchy?
4. Why does Johnson compare patriarchy to the board game Monopoly? What does Monopoly teach us about patriarchy?
5. What three solutions to gender inequalities in workplaces does Sandberg propose in Ted her talk?
6. What does Sandberg mean by “sit at the table?” Do you agree with her assessment?
7. Why do women systematically underestimate their skills and abilities? Why does Sandberg think this leads to gender inequalities in workplaces?
8. Sandberg quotes an important study by Harvard’s scholar that looked at how one’s gender impacts how other people perceive their success. What was its main finding?
9. What is the difference between how Sandberg and Slaughter explain gender inequalities? What are key differences in their proposed solutions?
10. What does Slaughter mean when she says that “real equality… does not mean valuing women on men’s terms?” What are the criteria used to evaluate men’s success?
11. What three solutions to gender inequalities does Slaughter propose?
12. In Slaughter’s view, what role does the government play in shaping gender relations?
13. According to Slaughter, what needs to be done to change current gender roles and culture more broadly?
14. What does Slaughter mean that care-giving and breadwinning should be equally valuable choices?

**General discussion questions:**

* + - 1. Who do you think Johnson would agree more with: Sandberg’s or Slaughter’s proposed solutions to gender inequalities in the US?
			2. Who is responsible for gender inequalities? Do the two speakers share the same view or are they different in how they assign responsibility for gender inequalities in workplaces?
			3. Whose visions of the future of gender relations appeals to you more: Sandberg’s and Slaughter’s ideas? Explain.