

Patrick Cronin

HW#3

Nov. 29, 2021

On My hope For the Future

What a question. In my ponderings on gender in this class, I have walked an easy route, I looked back and critiqued the framework we have now and in many ways failed to look ahead and imagine a future. It takes a minute to tear down a skyscraper, it takes a year to build one. Now, looking forward, I keep returning to what I found most important in this class, that we discuss.

In the future, I would like for everyone to be cognizant of the role gender plays in their life. That means, those who have thought about and experienced gender to talk with those younger than them whether that be a student, a child, or a teammate in order to prompt thought on what it means to be part of a gendered society. Through discussion we identify problems that can then be addressed, and live out an informed existence. What Gives me hope but also despair is this class. I see around me so many wonderful people looking to reconstruct society into a higher consciousness. You guys make me think change is possible, change that I desperately want to see. What I don't see around me is men, and this depresses me. Many men and a large portion of the US sit passively accepting the current construction of gender. If we want gender to be something all of society discusses we must actively bring a diversity of opinion into the conversation. I think this falls to us, those who are already discussing gender issues. We must get more people talking about gender. I think we all agree with this statement but I think the reason this will be hard is because it will mean embracing opposition. We cannot write off the person who argues gender and sex are one and the same, we must listen to their opinion with open ears and invite them to defend it and challenge it with your own beliefs. If this is actualized I will be happy because I am more concerned that gender is discussed openly and honestly than where the construction of gender lands in a hundred years. If we aren't able to

bring everyone into the conversation the divide in mindset concerning gender between those pushing for change and those maintaining the structure of the past will grow ever deeper and more dangerous. The insidious elements of an enforced gender binary will continue to infect society. If we are able to bring everyone into the conversation I have hope that we will live in a more kind and cognizant future.