

Expectation States

Theory

Status Structures
Status Characteristics



Expectation States

Key Concept

Status Structures: patterned inequalities of respect, deference, and influence among a group of people

Key Assumptions

Three dynamics are common to task groups:

- A **Capabilities Presumption** (Attributes)
- A **Collective Orientation** (Cooperation)
- A **Task Orientation** (Accomplishing A Goal)

Status Characteristics

- Status characteristics are attributes on which we vary that yield esteem.
- They have **Status Value**
 - They must be **Salient**
 - They are born in **Interactional Encounters**
 - They are either **Specific** or **Diffuse**
 - They lead to **(Consensual) Performance Expectations**
 - They require a **Burden Of Proof** because of **Status Generalization**

JOURNAL QUESTION



Often we think of status characteristics individually (e.g., white person), but we know some combined characteristics have their own status value (e.g., white woman).



Reflect on your own race & gender combination as one status characteristic. How might that characteristic affect where you'd fall in a status structure if you were assigned to a group project in two of the following classes:



Theatre and Dance 148: Intermediate Hip-Hop

Anthropology 137: Chinese Popular Religion

Chemistry 114: Biochemistry

History 145: The Holocaust As Public History



Your answer should mention status value, salience, specific/diffuse characteristics, and both your and the other group members' performance expectations for you.