The Feminization of poverty

Conflict Theory/Marxist Feminist
The feminization of poverty

Factors that influence include:
1. DIVORCE
2. BREADWINNER
   IDEOLOGY/EDUCATION
3. AGING
4. IDEOLOGY OF ROMANTIC LOVE-
mass media creation
Divorce Conflict View

1. **Divorce** is a capitalistic enterprise. There is more divorce in areas where capitalism is more intense than anywhere else such as California.
Divorce

• The divorce rate has increased three fold since the turn of the century, women are more likely to be single because of divorce than death.

• Death was the primary cause of single motherhood a century ago.
CANADA DIVORCE ACTS

- **1900-1968**- BRITISH COMMON LAW - sexist-double standards *5 years* for divorce
- **1968-3 years**, a move toward no fault
- **1986-CANADA DIVORCE ACT**- *1 year separation, 50/50 split*
Education

- Another influencer is education.

- Because of the ideology of romantic love, women fail to see education as important in comparison to men.
Males & Females in Capitalistic Society

• They are socialized to assume that men will take care of them (BREADWINNER),

• That women will be the nurturers and the caregivers, that this will be the case until death do us part.
Remarriage

• The **realities** are quite different….the average age of marriage is 26, the average age of divorce is 36.

• **Men** are more likely to **remarry** quickly whereas for women it takes some time.
Ageing

• 1. Another influencer is age. Men die at age 73.9 while women live to 82.5 years according to Stats Can 1996. The difference has increased over the last century.
• It seems to be influenced by labour force participation (breadwinner role) the numbers are declining as the number of women in the labour force have increased.
Labour Force Participation

1. Aging women may have not spent as much time in the labour force and therefore have collected CPP, they only receive 60% of a man’s income in survivor benefits this shows that a women’s identity is still associated with nuclear family.
Ethnicity and race

• A final factor in the feminization of poverty is ethnicity and race…

• If one is black, women, elderly, one is double triple jeopardy.
In the United States for example, 95% of Black families are female headed. The husband does not remain in the home, the Black family lives with the legacy of slavery.
The ideology of romantic love

• **Love** is not definable feeling, influenced societies for centuries, but it was not the basis of marriage.

• **Love** became more pervasive in this culture, it is said that it should be the foundation for marriage, and is associated with and **influenced by capitalism** and media.
Mass Media

- The media feeds on our inadequacies, makes us always feel there is something better.
- Young girls are socialized to make this central in their lives, traditional ideology has them as the carriers of the relationship.
- Finding a boyfriend, having a husband and children are central.
Romantic love

- The ideology of romantic love blurs our perception of what should be critical in our awareness of the realities of relationships...
Marriage gradient and the marriage squeeze

- 1. **1980’s** ….the average age of marriage is 26, the **average age of divorce** was 36. Men were more likely to remarry quickly whereas for women it takes some time. There are factors that influence this including the **marriage gradient and the marriage squeeze.**
FAMILY AND WELFARE

• The new neo-liberal approach to political economy has undermined basic family necessities…

• The SOCIAL SAFETY ERODES..

• PEOPLE BECOME LESS HUMAN<MORE COMPETITIVE AND EGOISTIC.
21st century Canada

- **Increased competition** among cities to attract capital
- between cities, with consequent discrepancies in the level of **essential services** provided to citizens

• The social welfare liberal consensus that marked the post-war period in North America was beginning to come apart.

• Out of this change in both countries' political culture there emerged an ideology of information technology that challenged the concept of universal access.
Ideology of information technology

- An ideology of information technology began to emerge in the United States in the 1970s. It drew upon the confluence of conservative politics, classical liberal laissez-faire free market values, and technological determinism (Birdsall, 1996; Birdsall, 1997)
Universal access

• The data show the **Universal access**

• **Market driven** concept of universal access in telecommunications that shapes how the **digital divide** is conceived and addressed in Canada

• Robert Babe demonstrates in his book *Canadian Communication Thought*
Knowledge based economy

- The raw material or basic commodity of this society's knowledge based economy is information. In the knowledge-based economy only the marketplace should determine which goods and services are produced and how they are generated; there are no "public goods."
21\textsuperscript{st} century=privatization

- \textbf{Emphasis on businesses generating employment and sources of tax revenues}
3. **Natural Resources**

- Privatisation of water and sanitation (see Walkerton Inquiry.)
Privatisation of water

• and sanitation services
• Warrants concerns over `the right’ to adequate housing and living conditions.
Global Economy

• “In fact, corporate globalisation, and its clear expression of privatisation of services, is one of the greatest threats to universal access to clean drinking water and sanitation.”

• (Ralph Nadar, Mel Hurtig, Maude Barlow)

• Water
The water campaign is calling for a national water policy that protects Canada’s water from bulk exports and privatization, because:
Free Market and Water

• The free market doesn’t guarantee access to water;

• **Bulk exports** could open the floodgates to trade challenges;

• **Canada’s water supply** is limited;

• **Public water is safer, cleaner and more affordable**; and

• **Water is essential** for people and nature.
Huge profits/eco imbalance

- **Corporations** are in a rush to obtain access to water, which they can sell at huge profits.

- **Mass extraction** of water from its natural sources can result in ecological imbalances such as aquifer depletion and groundwater contamination.[14
Scarce Resources

• Become… Commodities

• By turning a social good and scarce resource into an economic **commodity**, the world’s economic and policy planners claim that existing water resources can be managed and consumed
The World Bank

- IS a neo-liberal bandit
- The **World Bank** and regional development banks often advocate for **“unbundling” of services**, which separates the profitable and unprofitable areas of water and sanitation services
Layoff in Public Works

- **Privatisation** often leads to job losses. Massive layoffs are common as companies try to minimise costs and maximise profits, services and water quality are put at risk due to understaffing; thus **lay-offs** have a **double negative impact** as they hurt consumers as well as the workers involved.
Privatisation

• **Privatisation often results in reduced access by the poor** to basic social services.

• As basic social service become privatized, they become a new form of **regressive taxation**.
Global Patriarchy

- As men go further afield looking for work, **household tasks** such as cleaning, gathering fuel, **hauling water** become solely performed by women in the household.
Global Slums

• In many cities and towns in developing countries, between 50% and 70% of the population live in slums and squatter settlements without adequate housing or basic services.
Trade-related competition

- Many of the poor end up paying up to twenty times more than the rich for water.
- for basic necessities
- competition for water resources
- more likely to be impoverished
LESS REGULATION

• There is clear evidence of corruption in the privatisation process, where the system of checks and balances is weak.
Trade agreements

• **Multilateral trade agreements** provide corporations with powerful legal recourse. (GATT, FTA, NAFTA,
• Privatisation also undermines water quality and ecological sustainability.
American Imperialism

• The creation of a freetrade zone spanning the Western Hemisphere has been the stated goal of US. policymakers since the early 1990s

• It is in `the works!
Water

• Water companies work to weaken water quality regulations and environmental standards when they are perceived as increasing the costs of doing business
Monopolies and Gov’ts

Karl Marx=Political Economy vs. Adam Smith

- *Private operators* are not accountable to the public
Privatisation

- **Privatisation** can reduce accountability and local control. In many cases governments make long-term deals with the **water companies**, granting them exclusive distribution rights, thus sanctioning monopolies.
Breakthroughs

• Multiple technological breakthroughs
• We are fortunate to live in an age when a single calendar year will invariably yield multiple technological breakthroughs, the details of which are easily accessible to laypeople.
Invention and innovation

• Invention and innovation = rapid material change as well as change to non-material culture. (W.F. Ogburn, 1933)
• In the **18th century**, entire decades would pass without any observable technological **improvements**, and people knew that their children would experience a lifestyle identical to their own.
Technological Innovation

- COMPUTATION . CELL PHONE, LAPTOP, IPOD, GRAPHICS, BANDWIDTH, WIRELESS, BIOMEDICAL REPRODUCTION
- PRODUCTION and REPRODUCTION
- Mans – a producer or reproducer?
- Idealism or materialism?
- living alone are