“Night to His Day”: The Social Construction of Gender  
By Judith Lorber (1994)

Lauded gender scholar, Judith Lorber, breaks down and examines the concept of gender as a social institution. She explains why and how people “do gender” and how it effects the developmental processes of children. In addition, she identifies signs and signals of gender and asks difficult questions about the consequences for being non-conforming. This includes providing historically accurate examples of societies that do not believe in the familiar gender binary. Finally, Lorber discusses gender as a process and method for social stratification.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the difference between “sex” and “gender”?
2. What are some identifiers that are commonly used to mark people as “male” or “female”?
3. How does gender contribute to social stratification?
4. Identify common gender roles in your society.
5. How does the construction of gender contribute to the social ordering and stratification of societies?

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**Key Terms:**

- Gender
- Sex
- Sexuality
- Gender Binary
- Gender Roles
- Gendered Sexuality
- Gender-stratification