

WR 100 O7 Fall 2016

Goddesses, Concubines, and Midwives

Exercise #16: Performativity

Name:

Purpose: In order to understand the idea of performativity, it can be useful to think about your own identities and experiences.

Assignment: Pick one of your identities and write about how you perform, or “do” that identity. You should pick one of the identities we decided had oppression or discrimination related to them. Here are some questions to get you started:

- What identity are you picking?
- How do you “perform” or “do” that identity on an everyday basis?
- How do you “perform” or “do” that identity on special or particular occasions?
- Do you usually think of this identity as something you actively perform? Why or why not?
- Does the theory of performativity feel adequate for discussing this identity? Does your experience of this identity support the theory or undermine it?