1. On what grounds have feminists critiqued Darwin’s theory of evolution? What kind of an approach to critique does Grosz suggest instead?

Feminist theorists have argued that Darwin's theory was biased, that his argument about evolution was based on the nature aspect of human existence ignoring all the other social or cultural aspects of the human. Grosz argues that we need more complex accounts that ask “how does biology, the bodily existence of individuals (whether human or nonhuman) provide the conditions of culture and for history” (Grosz 2005, 14). The focus previously was on the biological aspect of humans ignoring the cultural, political, social and historical side of humans. Biological determinism of humans has been the critique by most feminist theorists especially those not engaged in the biological field. The human environment comprises many other things apart from the physical body, the understanding of the environment which deals with culture, history will then be of no use at all to humans. It has helped feminists to have some rigorous and in-depth useful insight into the social side of life, which Darwin reluctantly ignored., it was to project humans through the patriarchal category of humans from the biological nature perspective.

1. Describe the interrelated workings of the three principles of evolution that Grosz explicates from Darwin. What is the role of sexual or artificial selection in relation to, and as part of, natural selection? Does sexual selection mean that ‘culture’ is already part of nature?

Darwin argues 3 principles about how the species evolve: individual variation, the heritability of the characteristics of individual variation that lead proliferation of species, natural selection (Grosz, 19). Yes **Individual variation** means there is a genetic diversity in individuals' species features, which through heredity will proliferate d. Proliferation might also lead eventually to formation of a new species but different characteristics and features that will be reinforced or not through the natural selection.

Secondly, **heritability** is enabled by the invariable tendency of superabundance, excessiveness, the generation of large numbers of individual. Due to limited resources , differences in character and features which will make some members of the species stronger than others, in a hostile environment. The negative tendency of the environment will create competition for limited resources. The stronger will survive in given environment.

The third part is the “principle of preservation'' or natural selection, which refers to environmental pressures to it preserves only those variations that can viably function within its parameters and conditions/specific environmentsl. Natural selection preserves only ‘the fittest’ within specific and changing environments, and it entails extinction, this extinction and has acted in world history. (Grosz, 21).  Note that natural selection also includes ‘sexual selection’

1. Discuss the analogies of ‘differences within’ in Foucault’s conception of power and resistance and Darwin’s conception of variation and natural selection.

Foucault’s conception of power and resistance argues that power and resistance are always intertwined . Power produces resistance as part of its operation (Foucault). Just as species development (proliferation, superabundance) create natural selection as variation. Power is not absolute or stable but is vulnerable to the effects of resistance,, Darwin and Foucault believe that domination in the natural selection by dominate group produces subordinated group, so power to resist is important to have the natural selection for individual. (Grosz, 29).

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[Obrázek: Liya Ai](https://dl1.cuni.cz/user/view.php?id=113578030&course=9343)

Re: Week 4

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I agree with your idea that Grosz suggests feminists use Darwin’s theory to solve problems in a patriarchal society, and the idea that negative tendency of environment will create competition for limited resources. The stronger one can also be the weaker one survive through sexual selection (e.g. peacock) or natural selection because of their different feature or appearance. Being different from other same species could have a bad influence but not always. In addition, I think the idea “power and resistance should be an individual choice” is interesting.

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[Obrázek: Dominika Benešová](https://dl1.cuni.cz/user/view.php?id=113564208&course=9343)

Re: Week 4

*autor* [*Dominika Benešová*](https://dl1.cuni.cz/user/view.php?id=113564208&course=9343) *- Sobota, 14. březen 2020, 22.47*

In the first answer, I miss some mention of whether Darwin really ignored all the other sides of human existence besides biology and proposed an utterly deterministic theory. I also find some misconceptions in the second answer - mainly in the mention that the "stronger will survive", which I think is exactly the erroneous reception of Darwin's theory as Grosz explains in the text (the environment constantly changes, which means that the characteristics leading to survival change - it can not, therefore, be implied that it is always the (physical?) strength that leads to survival.) Also, the main analogy of Foucalt and Darwin's theory (the third answer) lies in something else than the idea that "power and resistance should be an individual choice" - I find the main analogy in the idea of constant transformation of power and resistance, dominance and subordination (one implies/provokes the other), which means that dominance (as anything else, according to Darwin's theory,) is not pregiven and it is not stable – it produces its own undoing (resistance) if you like. Same with the species: dominant species produce the expansion of those who differ from them…Also, the notion of "inherent productivity of the subordinated groups" is important and should probably be mentioned in the answer.

Ebenezer, I see progress in your answers compared to last semester. Keep at it. Read and cite carefully, and be open to nunances.