

Franziska Pusch SP3 Powerplay

Writing Assignment 2

After and during this class I thought a lot about the concept of othering. It was something I knew about before but this gave me a better understanding why it happens and its impact. Contextualizing it through strangeness and unknowability were the most helpful.

The idea that something is completely unknowable to you is an interesting one. There is so much I can never truly understand about other people because I was brought up in a different way, because I had different experiences and can not make the same experiences.

But is this inability to understand the same as unknowability?

We don't need to know someone well to not consider them a stranger. We don't even need to understand them. But we do draw a line somewhere between stranger and not stranger. Where do we draw that line? This question could be interesting for my group project centering on borders. Letting people draw their own borders between themselves and others in regards to different topics.

In general the idea of othering and strangeness are very relevant to the subject of borders. Borders are the physical (or metaphorical) lines drawn to signify that something different is on the other side. This concept can help us develop a better understanding of why people have borders in certain places.

I have a hard time fully comprehending the notion of strangeness. The concept means that people try not to be othered and fit in, because then you are protected by the norm. The idea of othering and strangeness is only logical as a concept to me.

Maybe I am lacking a fear of strangers. Maybe it is because I was always told to not care about what others think of me and not to worry to fit in. I never got why it is actually a problem for people to be different.

All of this doesn't mean that I am free of prejudices or seeing people as the other. But it is just such a difficult concept to understand.