Cultural influences on gender role

AO1/2/3:

- **Division of labour** - Universal across all cultures. Food preparation and childcare by women, men hunt and provide resources.

- **Monroe and Monroe** - Conducted cross-cultural study, every society had a division of labour suggesting gender roles and more biological than cultural. Women appeared socialised for compliance, responsibility and obedience and men were nurtured to be assertive, independent and self-reliant.

- **Temperament variation across cultures** - Mead studied 3 cultures across Papua New Guinea and found men more aggressive than women however in some cultures it was the other way around. For example, the Tchambuli people had more domineering women than their mainly emotional men.
  - Cultural relativism - Men more innately aggressive due to nature yet the way this is displayed depends on nurture (culture)
  - Lack external validity - Meads study based on Papua New Guinea.

- **Gender stereotypes** - Williams and Bests. Quiz on whether adjective used best described men or women. Men seen as more dominant, aggressive and autonomous, whereas women more nurturing, deferent and interested in affiliation. Barry found similar in non-western cultures. Universal stereotypes imply the role of nature and biology, rather than culture.
  - High external validity - 30 cultures used and evidence from non-western too means generalizable to wider cultures
  - High internal validity - As study measured what people's perception of gender roles actually were across cultures.
  - But lack internal validity - Either male or female characteristics, no in between so had to choose, raising methodological issues as true answers aren't being collated causing invalidity.
  - Lack of stereotypes rather than social behaviour - Reported stereotypes could have an impact on socialisation within culture questioned. But info from study cannot say this for certain.
  - Sample - All students same age, similar education and socio-economic backgrounds, so lacks external validity to wider population of people.
  - Questionnaires and adjectives - Imposed etic on study with cultural values and responses not fully understood by some cultures or western societies concepts of female/male role values.

- **Globalisation** - Cultural differences between masculine and feminine roles being reduced through legislation and equal opportunities. Social influences may be stronger than biological

- **Most studies originally based in US** - Attempted to be replicated have involved imposed etic. Study or criteria to measure gender roles may not have the same meaning across all cultures. Internal validity - may not be measuring true gender role stereotypes.

- **Difficult to gather cross cultural identical samples** - Samples may be biased with confounding variables such as socioeconomic background or educational variables.