Janina Fenigsen’s teaching packet for Linguistic Anthropology classes this week.

**Politics, Power, Genre and Gender on the Hill**

1. **What exactly is the nature of senate hearings?** Job interview or trial? The nature of the hearings, per Washington Post article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/kavanaughs-senate-hearing-isnt-a-trial-the-standard-isnt-reasonable-doubt/2018/09/20/1eb1ee34-bd15-11e8-b7d2-0773aa1e33da_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.eb2775a75824>

**2. Who will decide? Who are the people on the Senate Hearing Committee:**

a. What can we assume about their position on the violence against women? Six voted against the reauthorization of the Violence against Women Act:



b. Do any of the senators on the hearing committee have a track record of participating in similar events? Three senators to participate in the Ford hearings were in Anita Hill’s hearings.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/22/politics/senate-judiciary-committee-chuck-grassley-patrick-leahy-orrin-hatch/index.html>

**3. The complainant.**

a. Why has Ford not reported the incident to the police or her parents, when it happened? NYT columnist’s perspective, based on his own experience: <https://www.facebook.com/CuomoPrimeTime/videos/2265989087017887/UzpfSTY2Nzk4Mjk4MToxMDE1NjE2MzI0MzA5Nzk4Mg/> NYT columnist, Charles Blow

b. Why Ford may not be able to recall many of the details? Patti (Reagan) Davies experience: <https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/407851-ronald-reagans-daughter-defends-kavanaugh-accuser-i-was>

**4. A déjà vu all over again? Politics, Power, Genre and Gender on the Hill. Why many are concerned about the possible bias in the hearings?**

Clips from Hill-Thomas 1991 hearings here:

* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfvDcMzyAlY>
* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egTyaIAaqz8>

**5. How to move beyond (mere) impressions in identifying discrimination and bias in discourse.** Mendoza Denton’s “Pregnant Pauses” (1995) positionality, intersectionality, and CA markers of bullying and bias in Hill-Thomas transcripts.