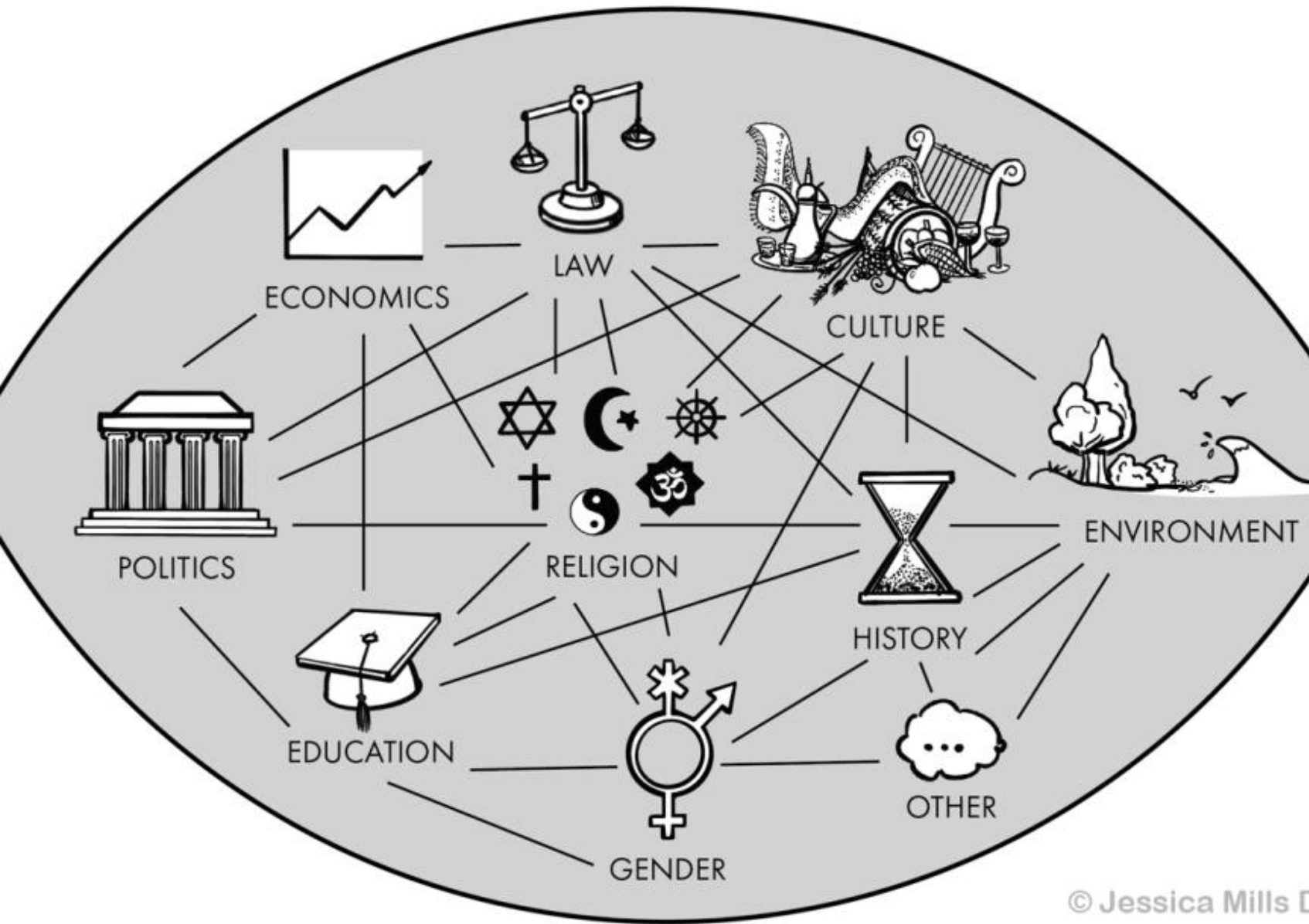


# Religion in the Modern World

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How religion affects, and is affected by, the modern world

# Functional Modes of Modern Religion

- Existential – faith and religious experience
  - The sine que non of modern religion, at least in the west, is how it makes you feel.
  - Mormonism – If you feel a burning in your bosom, you know it is real
- Intellectual – formal statements of belief
  - High priority during the Enlightenment
  - Losing importance with the decline of modernism
- Institutional - organizations advocating and transmitting beliefs
  - A decline in going to church and affiliating with a denomination
  - An increase in vague “spirituality”
- Ethical – teachings and beliefs that relate to moral conduct
  - “Choose your own ethics” mentality
  - Ethical standards change

# Are all religions the same?

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# Religion and Modern Technology

- Global communication allows global proliferation of ideas
- Social media gives everyone a platform
- No central quality control means everyone must interpret for themselves (or at least within their social group)
- People are pressured to communicate things that will make them liked.
- The speed of communication makes it difficult to think through and revise one's thoughts and issues carefully.

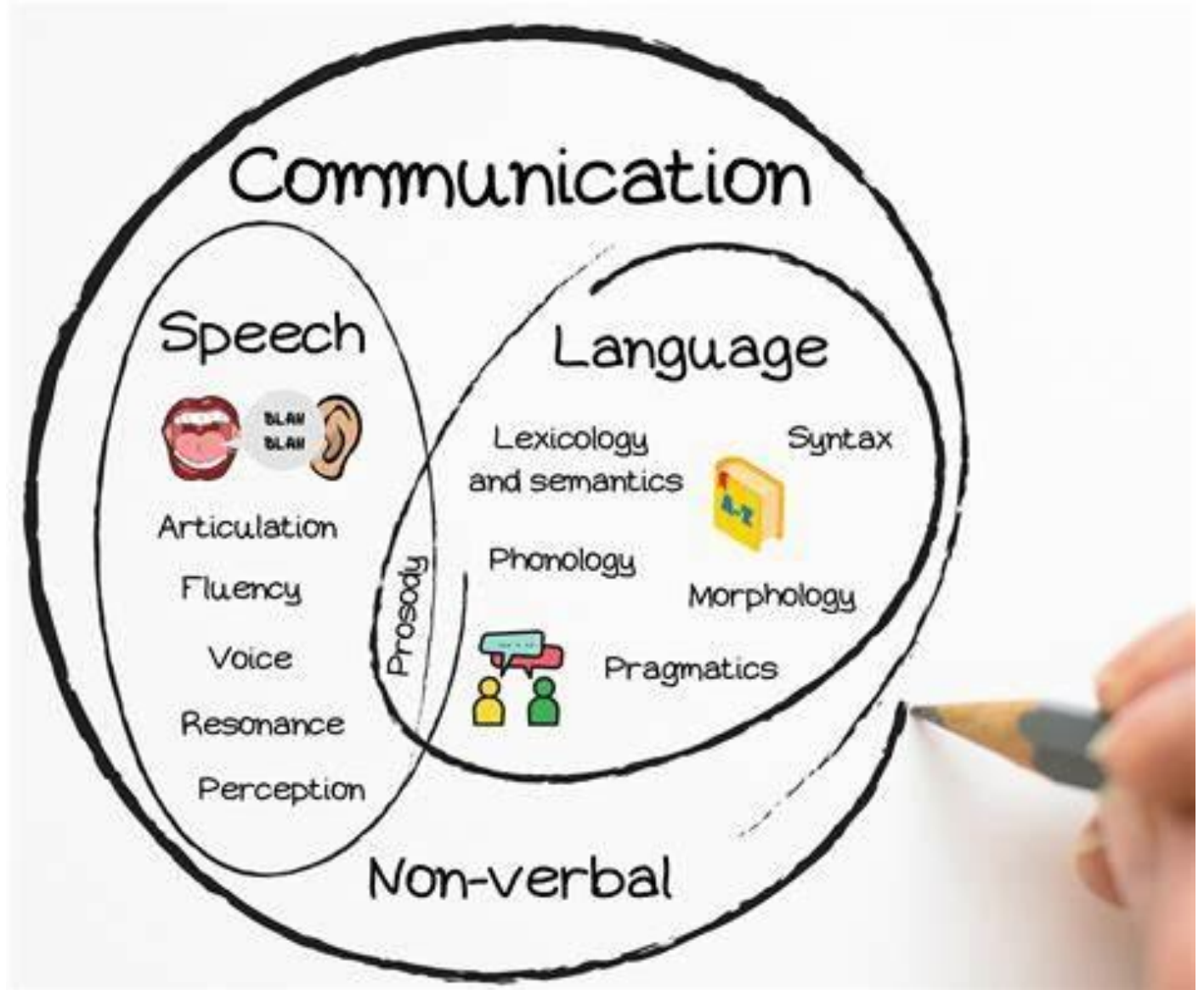
# Religion and Individualism

- Group identity – who I am is most determined by who we are
- Individual identity – who I am is most determined by what I do
- Islam – primarily group
- Hinduism – primarily group
- Buddhism – primarily individual (Arahant path to enlightenment)
- Christianity
  - Protestant
  - Catholic
  - Orthodox

# Religion and Literacy

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- How does a change in literacy impact the adoption and practice of any given religion?





Discussion

**Conclusion**