



Basic Definitions:

sexual orientation and gender identity

Sexual Orientation

Describes to whom a person is sexually attracted. Some people are attracted to people of a particular gender; others are attracted to more than one gender. Some are not attracted to anyone. Sometimes the term “affectional orientation” is used synonymously to indicate that attraction can be about more than sexual desire.

Asexual ~ not attracted sexually to anyone and/or no desire to act on their attraction to anyone. Does not necessarily mean sexless.

Bisexual ~ attracted to people regardless of gender. A common misconception is that bisexual people are attracted to everyone and anyone. Often referred to as “bi”.

Heterosexual ~ attracted to people of the “opposite gender” (though this assumes there are only two genders, see below). Often referred to as “straight”.

Homosexual ~ attracted to people of the same gender. Often referred to as “gay” for men and sometimes women, and “lesbian” for women only.

Questioning ~ a term used to describe someone, often a youth, who is unsure of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Queer ~ often used as an umbrella term for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender (BGLT) people as well as an individual identity for those who do not fit sexual orientation and/or gender identity norms in US society. Historically, it has been used as a pejorative term, and its use today is met with disfavor by some and worn proudly by others.

Homophobia ~ The fear of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people (often lumped together). It can result in avoidance, discrimination, and violence against BGLT people.

Biphobia ~ The fear of bisexual people, similar to homophobia, though it often includes the belief that bisexual people don’t exist.

Heterosexism ~ The presumption that everyone is heterosexual and/or the belief that heterosexuality is superior to homosexuality and bisexuality. Often includes the use of power of the majority (heterosexuals) to reinforce this belief and forgetting the privileges of being heterosexual in our society.



Gender Identity and Expression

A person's actual or perceived gender, as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression. One's sex (male, female, intersex) is the physical biology with which they are born. One's gender (man, woman, transgender) is how they choose to identify.

Crossdressers ~ People who dress in the clothing, partially or completely, of the societal norm for the "opposite" gender. Also known as "transvestites", though that term is generally, but not completely, out of favor.

Genderqueer/Third Gender/Transgender ~ People who identify as other than a man or a woman. Some individuals identify as neither men nor women, some identify as both, and still others identify as some combination of the two. Many believe there are more than two genders. Definitions and language continue to evolve.

Intersexual ~ A person born with mixed sexual physiology, with a physical manifestation of genital/genetic/endocrinological differentiation that is different from the cultural norm. ("Hermaphrodite" was the term used previously, though it is generally disliked and out of favor by intersex individuals.)

Transsexual ~ People whose understanding of their gender is different than the body into which they were born. A person born in a man's body whose self identity is that of a woman (or vice versa).

Transphobia ~ The fear of transgender people (used here as an umbrella term) and is similar to homophobia and biphobia.

Genderism ~ The belief that there are only two genders, male and female, which are identical to the biological sexes; and the belief that males must be masculine and females feminine.

Sexual Reassignment Surgery (SRS) ~ A part of the process a transsexual person goes through in order to create the bodies they believe they were born to have. Hormone therapy and psychiatric care are also a part of this process.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

BGLT ~ An acronym for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender. The Office of BGLT Concerns chooses to list the words alphabetically so as not to show preference for any one identity.

Coming Out ~ The term means to openly state one's identity, usually as BGLT. The term goes back to 1869 when gay people were urged to openly be themselves in Germany at the start of their gay rights movement (which was squashed by Hitler's rise). Being **out** means being open about one's identity. Being **outed** means someone else has disclosed one's identity, usually without the individual's permission.

Intersex Conditions

http://www.intersexualite.org/intersex_medical_perspective.html

Cloacal exstrophy: Severe congenital malformation of pelvis, including (in males) lack of a penis. These boys usually develop a male identity even if castrated and surgically reconstructed as females.

www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=13211

Definition of Cloacal exstrophy

Cloacal exstrophy: A birth defect involving the pelvic area that is termed a malformation sequence and involves the cloaca.

A cloaca is a common passageway for feces, urine and reproduction. During human embryogenesis (development), there is for a time a cloaca. The far end of a structure called the hindgut is the cloaca before it divides to form a rectum, a bladder, and genitalia.

Exstrophy refers to the eversion of a hollow organ at birth (from the Greek ex, out, + strophe, a turning). In exstrophy of the cloaca, an area of the intestine is interposed between two separate areas of the bladder. Variations on this theme occur in cloacal exstrophy, resulting in grave anatomic disarray.

Cloacal exstrophy can affect boys or girls. However, in at least one respect the condition is even more devastating for boys than girls. Boys with cloacal exstrophy have cryptorchidism (failure of descent of the testes into the scrotum) and very severe epispadias (with the urine opening above the phallus). This is so severe that it usually makes adequate reconstruction (of the male genitalia) difficult, if not impossible. Gender reassignment has therefore sometimes been attempted, making boys with cloacal exstrophy into apparent girls. In psychological and emotional terms, the results have been controversial."

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/gender/spectrum.html>

The Intersex Spectrum by Carl Gold

Physical gender is not always just a matter of XX or XY, girl or boy. In approximately one out of every 100 births, seemingly tiny errors occur during the various stages of fetal sex differentiation, causing a baby's body to develop abnormally. Problems in the formation of chromosomes, gonads, or external genitals can lead to a range of intersex conditions. The most common and well-researched of these conditions are explained below. For information on intersex conditions not mentioned here, see <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/pediatricendocrinology/>.

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)—One in 13,000 births

Two hormones are critical in normal sex differentiation. The testes of normal 46,XY males secrete both Müllerian Inhibiting Substance (also known as MIS or antimüllerian hormone) and masculinizing androgenic hormones, while the ovaries of a normal 46,XX female secrete neither. In CAH, the absence of a critical enzyme allows a 46,XX fetus to produce androgens, resulting in ambiguous external genitals. A CAH individual may have an oversized clitoris and fused labia.

Testosterone Biosynthetic Defects—One in 13,000 births

In a condition related to CAH, some 46,XY individuals do not have the properly functioning enzymes needed to convert cholesterol to testosterone. When such enzymes prove completely incapable of creating testosterone, the genitals appear female; when the enzymes function at a low level, ambiguous genitals form.

Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)—One in 13,000 births

AIS affects the section of the 46,XY population that is physically unable to react to androgens. In Complete AIS (CAIS), testes exist in the abdomen while the external genitals are female. The Wolffian, or male, duct structures do not form because of the lack of response to androgens. The Müllerian, or female, duct structures do not evolve because the testes still release MIS. At puberty, CAIS individuals grow breasts but do not menstruate. The testes are sometimes removed from the abdomen because they may develop cancer.

Partial AIS (PAIS) is marked by a limited response to androgens. The external genitals are ambiguous and duct development is incomplete. Depending on the selection of hormone treatment, PAIS individuals may exhibit partial male or partial female development at puberty.

Gonadal Dysgenesis—One in 150,000 births

In gonadal dysgenesis, the androgen receptors are intact while the androgen-secreting testes are not. Complete Gonadal Dysgenesis, in which neither androgens nor MIS are produced, yields female genitals and Müllerian duct formation, despite a genetic profile suggesting maleness. With estrogen treatment, female puberty can be achieved. Partial Gonadal Dysgenesis results in ambiguous genitals and duct development, as some androgens and MIS are produced. Like PAIS, the choice of hormone treatments determines the physical gender of the adult with Partial Gonadal Dysgenesis.

5-Alpha Reductase Deficiency—No estimate available

5-Alpha Reductase is the enzyme that facilitates the conversion of testosterone to another hormone, dihydrotestosterone (DHT). When a genetic male is deficient in 5-Alpha Reductase, the powerful DHT hormone is not produced. While testes and Wolffian ducts do exist, the male external genitals are similar in size to those of a normal female. If left intact, an adult 5-Alpha Reductase Deficiency individual will appear generally male but with small genitals and no facial hair.

Micropenis—No estimate available

In order to create a proper penis in a 46,XY individual, androgens must be secreted twice during fetal life. First, the androgens help to shape the basic structures into a penis and scrotum; later, the androgens enlarge the penis. A micropenis is the result of normal androgen secretion in the first stage and little or no androgen secretion in the second. The penis is normal in shape and function, but extremely small in size. While earlier surgeons often converted micropenises to female genitals, today micropenises are often left intact. Individuals with intact micropenises are often given testosterone to stimulate masculinizing puberty.

Klinefelter Syndrome—One in 1,000 births

Sometimes chromosomes join but do not form standard 46,XX or 46,XY combinations. Individuals with Klinefelter Syndrome are genetically 47,XXY and live as men. Small penis and testes, low androgen secretion, and possible female breast development are characteristics of this syndrome.

Turner Syndrome—No estimate available

Like Klinefelter Syndrome, Turner Syndrome is marked by an abnormal karyotype, 45,XO. While Turner women have female external genitals, the individuals lack properly formed ovaries. Without estrogen treatment, no breast growth occurs. Other possible features of Turner Syndrome include short stature, webbing of the neck, and misshapen internal organs.

Timing Defect—No estimate available

If all of the proper stages of normal male sex differentiation occur, but the timing is incorrect by just days, errors may arise. The occasional outcome in a 46,XY individual with this timing defect is ambiguous external genitals.

Note: The information above was adapted from "Syndromes of Abnormal Sex Differentiation," written by physicians at The Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The statistics on frequency were obtained from the Intersex Society of North America (www.isna.org).

Intersex Information

www.intersexualite.org/

Organisation Intersex International

OII-USA

OII – USA is the United States affiliate of the Organisation Intersex International, a non-profit organisation incorporated in the Province of Quebec, Canada. We have members throughout the United States. OII – USA resists all efforts to make intersex invisible, including genital mutilation, medicalization and normalization without consent and offers another face to intersex lives and experience by highlighting the richness and diversity of intersex identities and culture.

OII is the largest intersex organisation in the world with members representing almost all known intersex variations. It has members in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

www.isna.org

Intersex Society of North America

"The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) is devoted to systemic change to end shame, secrecy, and unwanted genital surgeries for people born with an anatomy that someone decided is not standard for male or female."

www.isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex

""Intersex" is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male."

Transgender Information Resources – Books

--- Biology

Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People Joan Roughgarden
Softcover 2005 ISBN 0520246799

A professor of biology at Stanford University, Roughgarden presents evidence of the immense diversity of gender and sex that is often denied by people desiring to impose a strict binary system on themselves.

The Blank Slate - The Modern Denial of Human Nature Steven Pinker
Hardcover 2002 ISBN 0-670-03151-8 Softcover 2002 ISBN 0-965-49173-0 Softcover 2003 ISBN 0-1420-0334-4
Addresses the nature vs nurture controversy. Chapter 19 deals with the development of children's minds. Chapter 18, despite being titled "Gender" only in the beginning passingly deals with cross-gender issues, instead mainly addressing wages and rape.

Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps Barbara and Allen Pease
Hardcover 2000 ISBN 1-56649-156-8 Softcover 2001 ISBN 0-7679-0763-9

The Pease's are, for want of a better term, motivational speakers who concentrate on gender issues in relationships and the workplace. The book goes into surprising detail into their analysis of the underlying biological causes of gendered communications. In chapter 3 (page 57) they provide "The Brain-Wiring Test" to identify how male-female your brain is, which, while entertaining, therapists likely wouldn't touch (since it's not peer reviewed), and in chapter 8 they provide their view of the biological basis.

--- Sociology

You Just Don't Understand - Men and Women in Conversation Deborah Tannen
Hardcover 1990 ISBN 0-688-07822-2 Softcover 1991 ISBN 0-345-37205-0 Softcover 2001 ISBN 0-06-095962-2

A popular treatment of some of Tannen's more academic work, the book concentrates on how men and women communicate, and the social reasons behind them, without delving into the biological reasons.

Self-Made Man – One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back Again Norah Vincent
Hardcover 2006 ISBN 978-0670034666 Softcover 2006 ISBN 978-0143038702

"Norah Vincent spent a year and a half as her male alter ego, Ned [...] she joins a bowling team, takes a high-octane sales job, goes on dates with women (and men), visits strip clubs, and even manages to infiltrate a monastery and a men's therapy group."

--- Transgender

True Selves - Understanding Transsexualism Mildred Brown and Chloe Rounsley
Hardcover 1996 ISBN 0-7879-0271-3 Softcover 2003 ISBN 0-7879-6702-5

Brown is a clinical sexologist and therapist who has worked extensively with transsexuals. The book presents her observations and experiences in a comprehensive, academic format.

She's Not There - A Life in Two Genders Jennifer Boylan
Hardcover 2003 ISBN 0-7679-1404-X Softcover 2003 ISBN 0-7679-1429-5

A personal tale of transition. Boylan is co-chair of English at Colby College, Maine, and an established writer. Also contains an afterward written by Boylan's friend about his adjustments to his friend's transition.

Just Add Hormones: An insider's guide to the transsexual experience Matt Kailey
Hardcover 2005 ISBN 0-8070-7958-8 Softcover 2006 ISBN 0-8070-7959-6

Kailey is a female to male, and self identifies as gay. This book is not an autobiography, but rather a collection of essays about post transition adaptations and insights on their cultural significance. How hard it was for him to go topless in public. The first time he had to change his own flat tire. Adjusting to new social expectations.

Whipping Girl – A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity Julia Serano
Softcover 2007 ISBN 1-58005-154-5

"In this provocative manifesto, biologist and transsexual woman Julia Serano shares her experiences pre- and post-transition, and reveals the ways that fear, contempt, and dismissiveness toward femininity shape society's attitude toward trans women, as well as gender and sexuality as a whole."

Transgender Information Resources – Web Sites

--- Journal Articles

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v442/n7099/edsumm/e060713-04.html
Nature Vol 442, page 133, 13 July 2006 – Commentary – Does Gender Matter? By Ben A Barres
“The suggestion that women are not advancing in science because of innate inability is being taken seriously by some high-profile academics. Ben A. Barres explains what is wrong with the hypothesis.”

Scientific American Vol 292 Number 5, page 40, May 2005 – Neuroscience – His Brain, Her Brain – By Larry Cahill
“It turns out that male and female brains differ quite a bit in architecture and activity.”

--- More Information

Baltimore City Paper 3/14/2007 www.citypaper.com/news/story.asp?id=13393
In Between Days By Laura Laing
Baltimore's Transgendered Population Navigates A World That Only Sees Biological Male And Female

Lynn Conway www.lynnconway.com (which resolves to: ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/conway.html)
Comprehensive and well illustrated site on all MTF transgender aspects with both overviews and personal stories.
ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TS/TS.html

World Professional Association for Transgender Health www.wpath.org
A professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders. The source for the official medical Standards of Care. (Previously the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.)

Olympics

Gender verification in sports
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_determination_in_sports

Olympics Sex Test: Why the Olympic sex test is outmoded, unnecessary and even harmful.
www.pponline.co.uk/encyc/0082.htm

Gender Verification No More?
ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TS/OlympicGenderTesting.html

Verifying the myth: olympic sex testing and the category “woman”
www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VBD-49WMSKF-3&_user=2429682&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=2429682&md5=1223e2c6087a96258e34c5a9b6ef5228

Olympic Problems with Sex Testing Human Bodies
www.thehastingscenter.org/Bioethicsforum/Post.aspx?id=2008

Genetic Tests Under Fire
www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,974937,00.html

Sex-test confusion could create havoc at Olympics
www.newscientist.com/article/mg13318041.700-sextest-confusion-could-create-havoc-at-olympics-.html

Last Olympics for the sex test?
www.newscientist.com/article/mg13518284.900-last-olympics-for-the-sex-test-the-worlds-biggest-sportsbody-has-just-banned-sex-tests-branding-them-unfair-and-unnecessary-butthe-old-guard-at-this-years-olympics-still-insists-the-practice-must-goon.html

The XY Games www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/opinion/03boy1an.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin

Olympic bosses suspend sex tests (The Express) www.pfc.org.uk/node/857/print

Tamara Press	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamara_Press
Irina Press	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irina_Press
Ewa Klobukowska	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewa_K%C5%82obukowska
Santhi Soundarajan	en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santhi_Soundarajan
Maria's Story	www.medhelp.org/ais/articles/MARIA.HTM