

Sex and Gender 2019

[But first – one last word about DNA](#)

Men vs Women

- In various studies (1987, 1991, 2007) Men are more likely than women to misattribute friendliness to sexual interest.
- Worldwide studies agree that women in greater proportions have a relational interest in sex and men a more recreational interest.
- Women in studies show a preference for men depicted as mature, affluent, and with an interest in rearing children
- Men have shown preferences for women in the ages of historic peak fertility and with wider hips than waists (in the past a possible correlation to an easier birth)

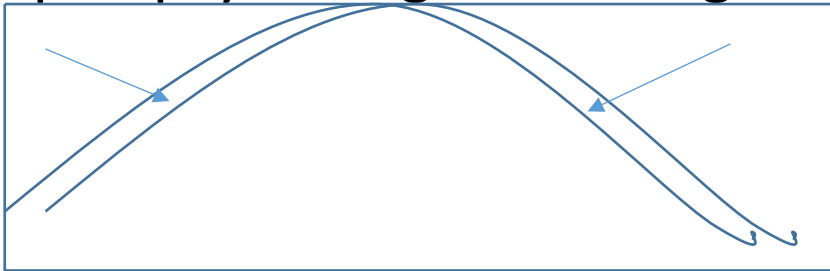
Evolutionary perspective on male / female differences in approach to sex and preferences

- Nature selects behaviors that increase the likelihood of sending one's genes into the future. We are predisposed to do what worked for our ancestors.
- For women that depends on having to nurse a child for a while → preference for stable mates who will stick around and help provide for family unit
- Men can spread their genetic material quickly and throughout many people all at the same time. May help to explain why in cultures world wide men tend to have a more casual approach to sex than women on the whole.
- Evolutionary perspective is subject to hindsight bias – cannot be proven cause and effect – these are speculations based on trends of the past

Gender Identity



- Sense of being male or female or other
 - IT IS DISTINCT from Sexual Orientation
 - It is DISTINCT from socially created expectations of gender
 - Currently believed to be tied to biological factors though not primary sex characteristics (people are predisposed to identify with a place on the gender spectrum due to biological factors, not social , learned factors or choice!)
- Gender typing – acquisition of a traditional masculine or feminine roles, behaviors, interests *****socially promoted and constructed**
- 90% overlap in psychological testing of boys and girls



How does gender typing happen?

Cisgender, Non-Binary, Transgender and Transsexual

- Cisgender – someone who identifies with the gender assigned them on the basis of their primary sex characteristics at birth
- Gender fluid – someone who identifies differently at different times
- Non-binary – can be Gender fluid or not identify with a gender at all
- Transgender → gender identity differs from that of birth sex, usually the opposite sex, does NOT necessarily mean the person wants to transition biologically
- Transsexual → may describe someone who is transgender and wishes to live as members of the gender opposite their birth sex, transitioning biologically. Sometimes involves surgery or medical treatment to aid this process.
- Transgender persons may be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or asexual.

Social learning theory

- Assumes children learn by observation and imitation of others and by being rewarded or punished
- **“Punishment”** can be in the form of teasing, admonishment or other signs of disapproval.
 - What a good mommy you are to your dolls!
 - You fight / throw like a girl!
 - That’s not very ladylike!
 - Grow a pair!
 - Boys will be boys!
 - Take it like a man!
 - Ending up an “Old Maid” vs a “Bachelor”
 - Girls who climb trees “tomboys”
 - Sugar and spice and everything nice, that’s what little girls are made of
 - Snakes and snails and puppy dog tails.....
 - Dolls vs “Action” figures
- “Boy worlds” and “girl worlds” – despite parents attempt at not gender typing

Gender Schema Theory

- Schema = a concept or a lens through which something is viewed
- Gender becomes a lens through which a child understands her experiences
- Culture impresses on children what it means to be male or female → children adjust behavior accordingly

[modern culture example](#)

Gender Dysphoria

Via the APA's DSM -V

- A transgender person **does not** have a disorder
- Extreme distress caused by one's identification as transgendered ***Might be*** a disorder if it meets certain levels and criteria
- Replaces diagnosis of “gender identity disorder” which is no longer a “disorder” in the DSM-V
- Causes of non-binary gender identity is still unknown

Not a disorder!

- Gender identity disorder was stricken from the APA's guidelines of what constitutes a mental disorder in 2013
- Replaced with Gender Dysphoria which we will look at in the Mental health Unit