Sexuality Education: Beyond the Birds and the Bees

Dillon Landi
The University of Auckland









ISSN: 1740-8989 (Print) 1742-5786 (Online) Journal homepage: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cpes20

Toward a queer inclusive physical education



SEXUALITY EDUCATION

A guide for principals, boards of trustees, and teachers

Is identity....



Is identity a....



Does identity....



Today: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Some Operational Terms

Sex

Sex tends to refer to the biological, or physical, attributes to the body.

But how many are there?

Gender

Gender, on the other hand, refers to the cultural characteristics that are ascribed to a body.

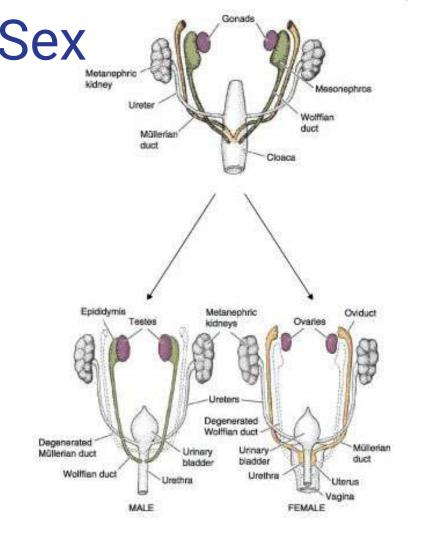
Tend to be referred to as masculine (boy) and feminine (girl). Takatāpui. Fa'afafine. Fakaleiti.

Sexuality

Sexuality refers to the feelings/ attractions/ relationships that you feel towards other people.

Queer, Straight, Lesbian, A-Sexual, Pansexual, Bisexual, Takatāpui, Gay, etc.

Sex



<u>Chromosomal Sex:</u> The bipolar story; XX or XY (lack of research on XX).

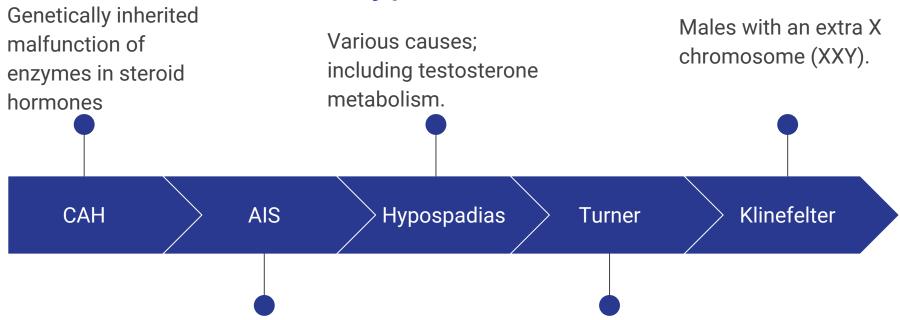
Fetal Gonadal Sex: SRY (male), FoxL2 (female), Wnt4 (female), and Rspo1 (female) all shape the fetal gonads (testicles and ovaries). These in turn develop fetal gonadal hormones that play a role in developing external genitals!

<u>Fetal Hormonal Sex:</u> fetal testes (AMF and Testosterone); fetal ovaries (estrogen); establishing internal reproductive sex (ducts and tubes)

Genital Sex: when the external genitals formulate.



Some Types of Intersex



Genetically inherited change in cell surface receptor for testosterone

Females that lack a second X chromosome (XO).

Gender



Gender

Sociological

Gender as Social

Bornstein (1995): gender is a result of socially constructed ideas about the behaviour, attitudes, and characteristics of sex.

Butler (1990): gender is a performance.

Psychological

Gender as Psychological

- Gender as naturally different (McGeeney & Harvey, 2015)
- Freud's gender (McGeeney & Harvey, 2015.
- Gender as developmental;
 1-32 months (Fausto
 Sterling 2012).

Neuroscience

Science and Gender?

What we know doesn't impact gender: chromosomes, gonads, internal organs, external genitals, and pubertal hormones.

"Existing neurons change their connections; new neurons are born, and all this happens as a result of how the body interacts day to day in the physical world (FS, 2012:63).

Gender

To be clear, the debate should not be about biology v. psychology v. sociology.

This would ignore the research that shows behaviour actually becomes embodied (Fausto-Sterling 2000; Hayles, 1993; Thelen, 1995; 2000).

The idea that gender norms are biological was used to support the notion that homosexuality was biologically determined (to gain rights).

There is much needed analysis between gender, sex, and sexuality.

Sexuality

SEXUALITY

Essentialism

- "Born this way" #LadyGaga
- When they look into history, they see gay behaviours/ sexual acts to affirm their point-- see it is natural!
- Their outreach and activism has led to many major civil rights advancements.
- Identity Politics!

Constructivist

- Homosexuality is a Modern Invention (1869- Germany anti-sodomy laws).
- We need to understand historical sexual behaviours in context.
- Same-sex behaviour in its current understanding is very different than compared to previous ages.

Essentialist Research (Historical)

Research Frame

Data

Conclusion

We believe that humans are born with particular dispositions. If so, we can locate the behaviours aligned to these dispositions by looking throughout history.

We analyse historical documents and artefacts to locate homosexual behaviours.





We found homosexual behaviours in the past (Egypt, Greek, China, Roman, Native American, Renaissance, etc.), therefore, homosexuality is a natural thing through history!



Constructivist Research (Historical)



We need to understand same-sex behaviours as socially constructed as different than today's context.

Data

We analyse historical documents and artefacts to not only locate homosexual behaviours, but also contextualise their meaning for the time.

Conclusion

Greek homosexuality had more to do with gender inversion and citizenship.

Cupid as love child of Hermes and Aphrodites (Hermaphrodite).

Not an IDENTITY (homosexual).

Sex, Gender, and Sexuality are COMPLEX and continually changing. Therefore, we need to connect it to students lives.

Sexuality Education

What is it?

- Social Understandings of Gender
 - Sexuality and Gender Diversity
 - Masculinities/ Femininities
- Sexual Stereotyping
- Sexual Health Statistics
- HIV/ Aids
- Identities
- Contraception and STIs (not at-risk)
- Sexuality and (dis)abilities
- Sexuality and aging
- Abortion
- Consent/ Harassment
- Adoption
- Technology
- Pornography
- Cultural/ Religious Differences
- Relationships
- Marketing/ Consumer Sexuality