

# GENDER CONCEPTS

Biological/Cultural Givens		Self-Perception/Identity		Incongruence	
Gender		Gender Identity		Transgender Identity	
<p>Actual physical characteristics associated with being male, female or a variation.</p> <p>Based on chromosomes (<i>XY, XX, XO, XYY or other variations</i>), hormonal release patterns (<i>cyclic or continuous</i>), brain organization, response of target tissues to hormones, pubertal development and influence of drugs that sometimes affect primary and secondary physical characteristics.</p>		<p>An individual's self-perception (and self-labeling) of own physical gender, based on biology and socialization.</p> <p>Identity may or may not match the person's physical gender.</p> <p>Gender identity is typically known to the individual by age 2-3.</p> <p>Gender identity can change over time.</p>		<p>When an individual's physical <u>gender</u> and <u>gender identity</u> do not match. <i>Example:</i> person with a typically male or female gendered body but having the gender identity of the other gender.</p> <p>Commonly used term: <b>"Transgender"</b> (or <b>"gender dysphoria"</b>)</p> <p>Transgender individuals may be <i>pre-, post- or without-medical interventions</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Typical:</b> Male Female</p>	<p><b>Less Typical:</b> Intersex Turner syndrome Klinefelter " "</p>	<p><b>Typical:</b> "I am male" "I am female"</p>	<p><b>Rarely:</b> "I am intersex" "I am both " "I am neither"</p>	<p><b>Typical:</b> M ⇒ F Trans. F ⇒ M Trans.</p>	<p><b>Rarely:</b> "Third gender" "Gender-fluid" "Two-spirit"</p>
Gender Role		Gender Role Identity		Transgender Role Identity	
<p>Cultural messages &amp; social expectations for appropriate behaviors/dress for individual genders (<i>i.e.</i>, "<i>males should ... , females should ...</i>")</p> <p>Cultures (and subcultures) vary widely in the number of gender roles (some have more than two) and how rigid/fluid these roles are for each gender.</p>		<p>An individual's self-perception regarding what is appropriate for his/her/their own gender, based on biology and socialization.</p> <p>This identity may or may not match cultural expectations.</p> <p>Gender role identity can change over time.</p>		<p>When an individual's <u>gender role identity</u> (self-perception, dress, behaviors) does not match the <u>gender role</u> for persons with that physical gender.</p> <p>Commonly used term is <b>transgender</b>.</p> <p>[<b>Note:</b> <b>Cross-dressing</b> is a <u>behavior</u> engaged in by heterosexuals and others for many different reasons.]</p>	
<p><b>Typical in Western culture:</b> Masculine role Feminine role</p>	<p><b>Variations:</b> India's <i>hijra</i>; Nat. Am. <i>berdache</i>, <i>warrior women</i>, "two spirit people"</p>	<p><b>Typically:</b> Most people: <i>Androgynous</i> Masculine males Feminine females</p>	<p><b>Rarely:</b> Extreme Androgyny Extreme Masculine Extreme Feminine</p>	<p><b>Examples:</b> <i>Males</i> with very <i>feminine</i> dress and behavior. <i>Females</i> with very <i>masculine</i> dress and behavior.</p>	

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION CONCEPTS

(Used with permission)

Biological/Cultural Givens		Self-Perception/Identity		Incongruence
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		<b>Sexual Orientation Identity</b>		
An individual's <u>actual</u> feelings of attraction toward one gender (or both) for fulfilling his/her sexual, affectional, social, emotional and/or spiritual needs. Determinants are unknown for sure, but current research indicates one's S.O. is the result of an interaction of mostly biological and some environmental factors.		An individual's self-perception (and self-labeling) of his/her/their sexual orientation. Identity may or may not match the person's actual sexual orientation. Realization of gay/lesbian/bisexual orientation can occur anytime between early childhood to late adulthood. Sexual orientation identity can change over time.		When an individual's <u>actual feelings of attraction (sexual orientation)</u> and <u>self-perception/labeling (sexual orientation identity)</u> do not match.  [ <b>Note:</b> Many people engage in heterosexual or homosexual <b>behavior</b> , for various reasons, that does not match their actual orientation or identity.*]
<b>Typical:</b> <i>Bisexual</i> (attracted to both genders to some degree)	<b>Less Typical:</b> Exclusively <i>heterosexual</i> Exclusively <i>homosexual</i>	<b>Typically:</b> <i>"I am heterosexual"</i> ("straight")	<b>Less Typical:</b> <i>"I am gay"</i> (if M) <i>"I am lesbian"</i> (if F) <i>"I am bisexual"</i> (M,F)	<b>Examples:</b> <i>Heterosexual Identity</i> but homosexual or bisexual orientation <i>Gay identity</i> but hetero or bisexual sexual orientation. <i>Bisexual Identity</i> but heterosexual or homosexual sexual orientation
<b>Sexual Orientation Role</b>		<b>Sexual Orientation Role Identity</b>		
Cultural expectations and stereotypes for different sexual orientations: (i.e., "heterosexuals should* gays should** lesbians should*** bisexuals should****")  Cultures and subcultures vary widely in how rigid/fluid these expectations are.		An individual's internalized messages, self-perception and self-labeling regarding what is appropriate for people with his/her/their sexual orientation.  Role identity may or may not match the culture's expectations.  Role identity may/can change over time.		When an individual's <u>sexual orientation role identity</u> (self-perception, dress, behaviors) does not match the <u>social orientation role</u> expected of persons with that sexual orientation.  <b>Examples:</b> Heterosexual men who have sex with men (MSM); heterosexual women who have sex with women (WSW)
* <i>marry, have kids</i> ** <i>be promiscuous, not marry, not have kids</i>	*** <i>be non-sexual, be butch or femme</i> **** <i>choose! Be oversexed, flaky</i>	"I am straight, therefore I should..." "I am gay, therefore I should..." "I am lesbian, therefore I should..." "I am bisexual, therefore I should..."		<b>More Examples:</b> <i>Gay or lesbian couples who have children.</i> <i>Heterosexuals who don't marry.</i> <i>"Macho" gay men; "lipstick" lesbians.</i>