“Trans 101”

Trans*cending Gender: Deconstructing the Binary

Thursday, October 19th, 2017

Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Ally Affairs
Wright State University
Overview

• Introductions
• Gender Discussion
• Breaking down the Binary
• Cisgender Privilege
• Possibility Models
• Discussion
What is Gender?

• What is gender?

• How do you describe your own gender?
Breaking Down the Binary
Human Sexuality is Complex

• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXAoG8vAyzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXAoG8vAyzI)
Coming to Terms Simplified:

1. Do not get wrapped up in terms, but be aware of them

1. Focus on understanding & remembering the differences & complexities of SAB, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sexual Identity.

1. Knowing the difference between Trans & Cisgender

1. Focus on challenging your thinking & opening your mind to unlearning your assumptions
Binary Gender Model

- **Sex**: Male, Female
- **Gender Identity**: Man, Woman
- **Gender Expression/Role**: Masculine, Feminine
- **Sexual Orientation**: Women, Men
(More) Inclusive Gender Model

Sex Assigned at Birth: Male, Intersex, Female

Gender Identity: Man, Trans*, Woman

Gender Exp: Masc., Andro., Fem.

Sexual Orientation: Women, All/Both, Men
Sex Assigned at Birth Umbrella

What was your sex assigned at birth?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Intersex
- d. Not listed (please describe)

Chromosomes
Genitals
Hormones
Reproductive Organs
Secondary Sex Characteristics
Intersex is a socially constructed category that reflects real biological variation

• Nature presents us with sex anatomy spectrums.

• Breasts, penises, clitorises, scrotums, labia, gonads—all of these vary in size and shape and morphology.

• So-called “sex” chromosomes can vary quite a bit, too.

• But in human cultures, sex categories get simplified into male, female, and sometimes intersex, in order to simplify social interactions, express what we know and feel, and maintain order.
Queer Umbrella

**Queer**: Not straight; outside of gender or sexual socially-constructed norms. Many LGBTQ+ people use queer as both a political statement and a reflection of their sexual identity, gender identity, and/or gender expression;
The Genderbread Person, revised

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don’t. Gender isn’t binary. Gender’s not even a spectrum or a continuum. Gender is a complex concept of n-dimensions that varies wildly from person to person. The only way to understand a person’s gender is to ask them.

Ask me about my identity ❤️
Skills for how to Ask:

Why
When
Where
How

To create spaces to allow individuals to self-identify
Transgender Identities
Cisgender is an important word because “biological” men or women gives the idea that there are certain gender experiences that are more natural than some others.
Privilege

Living without ever having to think twice, face, confront, engage, or cope with anything regarding your sexual orientation and/or gender
Cisgender Privilege

• What is this?

• How does this show up for you professionally & personally?
Trans*/Transgender
Someone who does not identify with their sex assigned at birth

Transfeminine/Transmasculine
Someone who identifies more female than male or more male than female

Trans Man/Trans Woman
Someone who was female at birth but identifies as male/someone who was male at birth but identifies as female

Agender
Someone who does not identify with a gender

Two-Spirit
Someone who fills one of the many mixed-gender roles prevalent in Native American communities

Multigender
Someone who identifies with more than one gender (e.g., bigender)

Gender Fluid
Someone whose gender changes

Genderqueer
Someone who does not identify within the gender binary

Identities not under the Trans* Umbrella:

Cisgender
Someone who is not trans*

Drag Performer
Someone who wears flamboyant clothes for entertainment value (can be trans*)

Crossdresser
Someone who wears clothes associated with the opposite gender (can be trans*)

Intersex
The presence of a less common combination of features that generally distinguishes male and female (can be trans*)

For more information, go to
www.transstudent.org/graphics
# Gender Pronouns

Please note that these are not the only pronouns. There are an infinite number of pronouns as new ones emerge in our language. Always ask someone for their pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Norm</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive Pronoun</th>
<th>Reflexive</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>Her</td>
<td>Hers</td>
<td>Herself</td>
<td>She is speaking. I listened to her. The backpack is hers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>Him</td>
<td>His</td>
<td>Himself</td>
<td>He is speaking. I listened to him. The backpack is his.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>Them</td>
<td>Theirs</td>
<td>Themself</td>
<td>They are speaking. I listened to them. The backpack is theirs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ze</td>
<td>Hir/Zir</td>
<td>Hirs/Zirs</td>
<td>Hirself/Zirself</td>
<td>Ze is speaking. I listened to hir. The backpack is zirs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, go to [transstudent.org/graphics](http://transstudent.org/graphics)

Design by Landyn Pan

Please Check Your Title

- [ ] Mr
- [ ] Mrs
- [ ] Miss
- [ ] Ms
- [ ] Dr
- [ ] Mx
Oh no, someone left their cell phone.

Dang, I wonder if they’ll miss it?

Of course they will. It’s their phone.

Not what I meant. I was wondering if they’ll miss it in time to come back for it before the shop closes.

I hope so, for their sake.

YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO USE SINGULAR THEY.

When a nonbinary person asks you to use “they” as their pronoun, you can handle it.
Genderqueer and/or Non-Binary Identities

NON-BINARY

OUTSIDE OF THE GENDER BINARY

* USED AS AN UMBRELLA TERM OR AS ITS OWN IDENTITY

QUEER IDENTITY

GENDER IS HERE, NOT HERE
Genderqueer Clip

- [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6reYu3eYq5U)
Skills

• Asking and using chosen name & pronouns
• Intake forms reflect spaces for diverse gender identities and expressions
• “Gender Dysphoria” should not be a requirement
• Understanding how to navigate the “systems”
  – Health providers
  – Insurance
  – Family of origin
• Ongoing education
Possibility Models

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY
MARCH 31ST, 2017
#TRANSRESISTANCE

WWW.TRANSSTUDENT.ORG/TDOV
WE DIDN’T TAKE NO SHIT FROM NOBODY. WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. YOU ALL HAD RIGHTS. WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. I’LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO STEP ON ANY ORGANIZATION, ANY POLITICIAN’S TOES IF I HAVE TO, TO GET THE RIGHTS FOR MY COMMUNITY.

-SYLVIA RIVERA
TRANS PEOPLE ARE

Exactly

WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE.

NO MATTER WHAT THE CULTURE OR MEDIA

WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE.
What’s your Role?
Things to Consider

• You role historically and currently could inherently be a barrier and exist as a gatekeeper.

• Informed Consent

• Transparency

• What tools are you providing
Questions?

• Office of LGBTQ Affairs
• www.wright.edu/lgbtqa
• petey.peterson@wright.edu