
“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; *male and female* he created them.”
Genesis 1:27

“Trying to understand a child without understanding the role of gender in child development is like trying to understand a child’s behavior without knowing the child’s age.”

Leonard Sax in *Why Gender Matters*, p. 35

Sex Identity

- Sex means biological maleness/femaleness
- Genetic sex denotes chromosomes (xy & xx)
- Anatomical sex denotes the physical sex features
- Sex (male and female) more fundamental than sexual orientation (gay or straight)
- Gender therefore becomes the psycho-social meaning attached to the biological maleness & femaleness

Gender

- Gender
 - Social categories of male or female that are differentiated by psychological characteristics or role expectations
 - Traits and behaviors might vary from culture to culture and across situations
- Gender Identity
 - A person’s perception of themselves as a specific gender
 - Am I male or female?
 - Transgendered
 - Perception does not match their biological sex assignment
- Gender attribution
 - Process whereby we look at a person and say, “that’s a man” or “that’s a woman.”

Transgender

- In 1990s, became anyone who crossed gender lines
- Broad umbrella term
 - Include pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals who feel they were born into the wrong-sex
 - Cross-dressers (formerly transvestites) who occasionally wear clothing of the opposite sex to express an inner cross-gender identity
 - MTF, FTM, or somewhere in between
- Challenge dominant assumptions about gender

Gender

- Gender Role
 - Set of socially-constructed and expected behaviors, traits, or actions that society associates with being male or female
 - U.S. – Male – Agentic – Getting things done
 - U.S. – Female – Expressive or Communal – Keeping the group together and content
- Gender Role Identity
 - Subset of traits, behaviors, and characteristics of female and male gender roles that an individual actually displays
 - Masculine
 - Feminine
 - Androgynous
 - Undifferentiated
 - Gender role and sexual orientation are not necessarily the same thing
- Masculine Gender Role Identity
 - Displays traits, behaviors, and characteristics that society identifies as part of the male gender role and very few, if any, of those associated with the female gender role
 - Sex-typed – following the role or rules of his gender
 - Female with masculine gender role identity is cross-sex-typed – following role or rules of the other gender
- Feminine Gender Role Identity
 - Displays traits, behaviors, and characteristics that society identifies as part of the female gender role and very few, if any, of those associated with the male gender role
 - Sex-typed – following the role or rules of her gender
 - Male with feminine gender role identity is cross-sex-typed – following role or rules of the other gender
- Androgynous Gender Role Identity
 - Displays traits, behaviors, and characteristics that society identifies as part of the female gender role and the traits, behaviors, and characteristics of those associated with the female gender role
 - Debate over the exact proportions to determine whether one is androgynous
 - Must display both traits in approximately equal number of female and male traits
 - Neither male nor female would be sex-typed
- Undifferentiated Gender Role Identity
 - Displays few, if any, traits, behaviors, and characteristics that society identifies as part of the female or male gender role
 - Neither male nor female would be sex-typed

- **Sexual Orientation**
 - Lesbian (L)
 - Gay (G)
 - Bisexual (B)
 - Questioning/Uncertain or Queer (Q)
 - Heterosexual - Straight
- **Gender Identity**
 - Masculine
 - Female
 - Transgender (T)

- Is “homophobia” a socially-constructed concept and a socially-loaded label?
- Literally: “fear of the same”
- One of the most powerful controls of gender role behavior?
 - Stronger for male than female behaviors

Time Magazine

- “The typical high school student hears anti-gay slurs 25.5 times a day.”
- “In a 14-city study of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, 80% reported verbal abuse, 44% reported threats of attack, 33% reported having objects thrown at them and 30% reported being chased or followed.”
- “In a study of 4,159 Massachusetts high school students, 31.2% identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual were threatened/injured with a weapon at school in the past year compared to 6.9% of their peers.”

GLSEN: OUR MISSION

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Anti-bullying

Pro-diversity

Pro-gay lifestyle?

Fair and Balanced Approach?

GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Clubs

Homosexual Activists Groups

- NGLTF – National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
 - Political lobbying group
 - Credited with APA taking homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

- Oldest and largest of gay legal organizations in U.S.
- Works in sexual orientation discrimination law
- ACT UP
 - Concerned with AIDS-related issues
 - Uses demonstrations and rallies to get its message out
- Human Rights Campaign Fund
 - Political action committee
- GLAAD – Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
- GLSEN – Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network
 - Concerned with curriculum and programs in schools
 - Anti-discrimination focus

The “Homosexual Agenda”

- After a national meeting of leading gay activists held outside Washington, DC, in the late 80s, Harvard-trained homosexual activists Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen documented the strategy that was discussed:
 - “Conversion of the average American's emotions, mind, and will, through a planned psychological attack, in the form of propaganda fed to the nation via the media.”
- As Michael Warren, author of *Seeing through the Media*, says it is “not raw overt coercion; it is one group's covert orchestration of compliance by another group through structuring the consciousness of the second group.” This manipulation is almost always hidden in terms of rights, science, and enlightenment.
Source: <http://www.culture-of-life.org/content/view/465/105/>
- “Educational methods not only play an intense role in political indoctrination – ultimately education and training are inevitably taken over. No contrast can be tolerated between teaching and independent thought.”
 - Propaganda scholar Jacques Ellul
- “Whoever captures the kids owns the future.”
 - Gay activist and author Patricia Nell Warren

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Gallup Polls on Perceptions/Views of Homosexuality

Located at: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/108115/Americans-Evenly-Divided-Morality-Homosexuality.aspx>

What are the issues for schools?

- Discrimination & Harassment

- Victimization as a reality and as a socio-political tool
- Hostile environments
- Bullying
- Inequitable policies / applications of policies
- Deleterious effects on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students
- Support and interest groups
 - GSA
- Curriculum
 - Sex education
 - GLSBTQ (Questioning?)
- Advocacy and activism in schools
 - GLSEN
 - ACLU
- Diversity movement and ideology
- Knowledge and skills of professionals within schools to deal with this issue (?)

School districts have a legal and ethical obligation to prohibit discrimination and harassment.

Student who are:

- **Gay**
- **Perceived to be gay**
- **Gender non-conformists (acting in manner inconsistent with traditional male/female stereotypes)**

Consider:

A male student wearing a wig, high heels, and padded bra, who is threatening to file suit for having been taunted and teased by other students.

Legal issues that can invite a challenge

- **Dress code**
- **Clubs**
- **Locker rooms**
- **Restrooms**
- **School newspaper**
- **Yearbook photos**
- **Sports/cheerleading**
- **Overnight field trips**
- **Internet filtering**

Things are changing

- Gender-based dress code prohibitions may be sex stereotyping.
- Wearing clothing of the opposite sex may be constitutionally protected speech.
- Locker room harassment to students who may be biologically male or female but do not conform to gender identity
- Non-transgender students may be uncomfortable sharing restrooms with transgendered students.
- Prohibiting a male from participating with cheerleaders based on biological sex rather than identifying with females.
- Parents and students may request school records be changed to reflect gender identity.

Christina Hoff Sommers

Equity feminism: feminism in which the goal is to establish full legal equality of woman and men and equality of opportunity; without preferential treatment or the need to constantly portray women as victims (Christina Hoff Sommers)

Gender feminism: feminism that criticizes contemporary gender roles and wishes to abolish them completely (mainstream feminist theory)

Campus Activism: How to Become a NOW Activist in High School

When adults think of campus activism, rarely do they picture a passionate group of 15-year-olds campaigning for abortion rights, or high school juniors designing innovative posters for a rally-the one they themselves have organized.

The newness of the high school campus movement is what makes it so exciting, such a source of hope for those pursuing equity and justice.

Source: <http://www.now.org/chapters/campus/highschool.html>

Stereotypes

- Beliefs or assumptions about the traits that an individual will possess because of their membership in a sex or gender category
 - Tells us what to expect from people
 - More likely to be applied to unknown people and situations
 - Can pertain to different aspects of gender role
 - Personality traits (aggressiveness vs. niceness)
 - Family roles (cuts grass vs. does laundry)
 - Occupations (truck driver vs. nurse)
 - Academic majors (engineering vs. women's studies)
 - Physical characteristics (muscular vs. petite)

Gender Schema Theory

1. I am a boy.
2. Boys are supposed to play with trucks, not with dolls.
3. Therefore, I will play with trucks and not with dolls.

Research:

STUDY ONE

- One-and-a-half-year-old toddlers
- Cannot reliably assign themselves to correct gender
- Children's toy preferences firmly in place
- Boys preferred trucks over dolls more strongly than girls preferred dolls over trucks. Unexpected, because girls more likely to correctly assign themselves correctly.

STUDY TWO

- Nine month old babies.
- Boys strongly preferred "boy toys" (balls, trains, cars)
- Girls preferred "girl toys" (dolls and baby carriages)

Boy's Eye View of School

- Typical boy is 1.5 years behind typical girl in reading and writing.
- 55% of college attendees are female as of 1997. The gap is widening.
- Girls get better grades in school than boys.
- Eighth-grade boys are retained 50% more than girls.
- By high school, boys account for 2/3 of students in special education.
- Girls take more rigorous academic curriculum than boys, including more AP courses.
- Girls outnumber boys in student government, honor societies, and debating clubs.
- Boys are more likely to drop out of school and/or have substance abuse problems.

The feminization of culture and schools

"We need to raise boys like we raise girls." Gloria Steinem

"Stay in your seats. (And don't move for the next hour.)"

"No running at recess. Kids could get hurt."

Michael Gurian:

"Political perspectives squashed dialog about biological tendencies in boys and girls..."

"What we need to do is to better understand why boys are the way they are, to nurture and celebrate those differences, and to help boys be boys."

Brain researchers have identified seven structural differences between the male and female brain that lead directly to the following behavioral differences:

- (1) Males do better on average than females in spatial tasks;
- (2) Girls in general do better in reading than boys;
- (3) Females are more verbally oriented than males, in general;
- (4) Males are more single-task oriented than females, in general;
- (5) Females are usually more successful at accomplishing a variety of tasks at once than males are;
- (6) Females are able to more accurately identify the emotions on another person's face than males.
- (7) Boys produce up to 20 times as much of the sex hormone testosterone as girls

- Girls who bully typically...
 - Have many friends
 - Are socially skilled
 - Act in groups to isolate a single girl
 - Are doing well in school
 - Know the girls they are bullying
- Boys who bully typically...
 - Have few friends
 - Are socially inept
 - Act alone
 - Are doing poorly in school
 - Don't know the boys (or girls) they bully

	Girls	Boys
Friendships form among...	Two or three girls	Two to twelve boys
Friends focus on...	Each other	Shared interest in a game or activity
Games and sports are...	An excuse to get together	Central to the relationship
Conversation is...	Central to the relationship	Often unnecessary
Hierarchies...	Destroy the friendship	Build and organize camaraderie
Self-revelation is...	A precious badge of friendship	To be avoided if possible

