Gender Diversity:
The intersection of transgender and intersex identities.

Washington Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Summit, 2020
First, the basics: Vocabulary
Transgender: an umbrella term

Gender **Identity:**
- Cisgender
- Transsexual
- Non-binary (*identifies* beyond gender binary)

Gender **Expression:**
- Drag Kings & Queens
- Cross dressers
- Non-binary (*presents* in non-stereotypical ways)

https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender

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FTM / MTF / FTN / MTN / FT* / MT*

Acronyms to describe a transgender or transsexual individual. The first letter is the assigned birth sex; the second letter T is for “to,” signifying transition; and the third letter is the destination gender, the person’s affirmed gender. The * indicates inclusivity of all variations of trans people, as not all identify with a particular gender.
Common Sense

What if what we believe is **true**
is only **true** because of what we believe?
But…. Isn’t everybody born *either* male or female?
How do you *know* the answer to that question?

- It’s common sense (everybody knows it, so it must be true).
- It’s (high school) Biology
- I’ve read books or articles about it
- The Bible says so.
- I know someone who is transgender.
- Peer-reviewed research
What we didn’t learn in school:


What we didn’t learn in school:

• Elagabalus (trans woman)
  ...[T]he emperor “delighted to be called the mistress, the wife, the queen of Hierocles.” He also describes how Elagabalus offered money to any physician who could give him female genitalia...reigned from 218 until 222 AD

• Chevalier D’Eon (trans woman)
  A French spy who passed as female and entered the Russian Court, later served as a diplomat to England (1728-1810)

• Alan Hart (trans man)
  Md., with a career in medical research, pioneering the use of X-ray in the treatment of TB, as well as a successful second career writing novels. (1890-1962)
  https://historycollection.co/11-remarkable-transgender-people-history/11/

• Albert Cashier (trans man)
  During the Civil War, Cashier fought in approximately 40 battles, and once singlehandedly overpowered a prison guard in order to escape back to his division after being captured. (1843-1915)
  https://www.ranker.com/list/transgender-people-in-history/devon-ashby
How Medieval Surgeons Shaped Sex and Gender

[The Aristotelian model, which became popular in thirteenth-century Europe, viewed “male” and “female” as discrete categories. That meant that genitals that weren’t easily identified as male or female were “mistakes of nature” that surgeons were justified in trying to correct.]

The 1st Nazi Book Burning: The Institute of Sexology founded by Dr. Hirschfeld
High School Biology

X and Y chromosomes make us male or female, don’t they?
What causes gender identity?

Sexual differentiation in the brain is the result of fetal exposure to sex hormones.

How can Gender Identity differ from Sex Assigned at Birth?

“It has long been demonstrated in animal research that the sexual differentiation of the brain can be modified independently of the sexual differentiation of the reproductive tract.”

(466)

Just because you can’t see something with the naked eye....

https://www.thebalancecareers.com/radiologic-technologist-skills-list-2062464
Male and female brains show multiple structural differences when observed through the range of scientific imaging tools.

What causes gender identity?

There are numerous grey matter structural brain similarities in transgender brains and the cis gender brains who share the same identified gender, but not with the brains of their assigned sex.

What causes gender identity?

[S]tructural differences in the white matter of Female-to-Male (FtM) trans brains appear to be nearly identical with cis gender males, while the same structures in Male-to-Female (MtF) trans brains was typically about ½ way between cis male and cis female brains. These differences appeared early enough to predict transgender identity before puberty.

What causes gender identity?

Researches at UCLA have also identified numerous structural differences in the brains of transgender people.

MtF brains have the same neuronal structures as female brains, regardless of hormone exposure in the MtF population, while neuronal structures in FtM brains match those in male brains.

Can it be Genetic?
Sometimes/But Not Always
Sometimes, it’s environmental:

“...a 5-year online study of DES-exposed sons by Kerlin et al., reported at least 150 cases of moderate-to-severe gender dysphoria among 500 sons with confirmed or suspected prenatal DES exposure” (p. 203).

Sex hormone levels are controlled through multiple channels:

- More than 25 genes that affect sex development have now been identified and they have a wide range of variations that affect people in subtle ways.
Twins studies show a strong genetic component:

“In 2 separate retrospective studies of twin pairs, Bailey et al. and Coolidge et al. demonstrated a strong heritable component among twins with transgender identity” (p. 202). [Of 500 twins where one was trans, 150 were both trans.]

Other genetic studies have similar findings:

Heritability estimates are consistent with other behavioral and personality traits, which generally fall in the range of 30–60%.

Receptor site dysfunction

- Complete variety (cAIS)
- Partial type (pAIS)


- Androgen receptor sites genetically blocked

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4810760/
In addition to XX/XY, some people are:

- X
- XXX
- XXY
- XXXY
- XXYY
- XYYY
- XXXYY
- XXXX
- XXXXX
- XXXYY
- XXXXXX
- XXXXXX
Distribution of sex characteristics across populations
What causes gender identity?

7.8% of children diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria were also diagnosed as Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are not linked: gay men and lesbians exist.

“Biological sex” rests on the assumption that genitals create gender identity.
The Early Assumptions were all wrong:

• Being transgender isn’t a learned behavior
• It’s not about mom
• It’s not caused by abuse
• We aren’t confused or delusional
Gender is socially constructed rather than biologically given (de Beauvoir 1952, West and Zimmerman 1987, Lorber 2003, Barker 2008).

Feminist theory:

Behaviorism:

Skinner argued that all human activity is determined by, and is the product of, the environment.

https://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/socialresearch/behaviourism.htm

David Reimer
1965-2004

Why 2004 is when we began to ask the right questions
Childhood Sexual Abuse:  
- 18% non-LGBT children  
- 35.5% LGBT children  
- “Transgender people in particular were at high risk for being victims of violence.”  


Childhood abuse: trans  
- 31.6-47.6% rates of sexual abuse  
- 52.6% emotional abuse - male identified  
- 45.5% emotional abuse - female identified  
- 46.7% physical abuse - male identified  
- 43.6% physical abuse - female identified

Myth: Most kids outgrow being trans...

“There is almost no difference between these trans and cisgender kids of the same gender identity — both in how, and the extent to which, they identify with their gender or express that gender.”

Myth: Trans people are predators

Researchers at the Williams Institute, at the UCLA School of Law, examined restroom crime reports in Massachusetts cities of similar size and comparable demographics and found no increase in crime and no difference between cities that had adopted transgender policies and those that had not.

Myth: Trans athletes have an unfair advantage

• Notice that they never refer to trans women as women
• Notice that they never talk about trans male athletes
• Notice that they don’t talk about the 1-2 year requirement to be on hormone therapy
• Notice that they never talk about trans women coming in 2nd or 3rd place
• Notice the source of these articles (they’re frequently written by anti-LGBTQI organizations)

Trans People are not mentally ill


- Gender identity disorders have been renamed as “gender incongruence” in the ICD-11 and moved from the mental disorders chapter to the new sexual health chapter 26, meaning that a transgender identity is no longer to be considered a mental disorder. [2019] Reed, Geoffrey & First, Michael & Kogan, Cary & Hyman, Steven & Gureje, Oye & Gaeble, Wolfgang & Maj, Mario & Stein, Dan & Maercker, Andreas & Tyrer, Peter & Claudino, Angélica & Garralda, Elena & Salvador-Carulla, Luis & Ray, Rajat & Saunders, John & Dua, Tarun & Medina-Mora, María & Pike, Kathleen & Saxena, Shekhar. (2019). Innovations and changes in the ICD-11 classification of mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders. *World Psychiatry.* 18. 3-19. 10.1002/wps.20611.

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Religion as Authority

The Bible is more supportive than you may think...
What the Old Testament says:

Isaiah 56:4-5 21st Century King James Version (KJ21)

• 4 For thus saith the Lord: “Unto the eunuchs that keep My Sabbaths, and choose the things that please Me, and take hold of My covenant,

• 5 even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.
What the New Testament says

Matthew 19:12 21st Century King James Version (KJ21)

• 12 For there are some eunuchs who were so born from their mother’s womb, and there are some eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven’s sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.”
Genesis 1:27 21st Century King James Version (KJ21)
  27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

Genesis 1:1 21st Century King James Version (KJ21)
  1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
Research Relating to Employment...
Findings: 2009, National Survey

- **Double the rate of unemployment**: Survey respondents experience unemployment at twice the rate of the population on as a whole.

- **Near universal harassment on the job**: Ninety-seven percent (97%) of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment or mistreatment on the job.

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The percentage of people willing to date a trans person:

- 2018 Survey
- 3.3% of Cis, Hetero Men
- 1.9% Cis, Hetero Women

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https://www.them.us/story/cis-trans-dating
Social Anxiety

- Transgender: 60%
- Cisgender: 10%
- Military Personnel: 10%

Source: https://www.transadvocate.com/extreme-pressures-faced-by-trans-people_n_8452.htm
32.0%

Assigned male at birth

Assigned female at birth

21.4%

All

19.7%

Male

1.7%

Female

10.4%

All

Transgender population

Adults in the US population

The Poorest Among Us: 1 In 4 LGBT Southerners Live In Poverty

A new study reveals members of the LGBT community in a majority of states experience higher rates of poverty than their straight, cisgender neighbors. Dec 30, 2019, 03:00pm.

From **worst** to **best**, rank states for equality in transgender poverty levels.

Where do you think most trans people live?

- Delaware
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Washington
The percentage of trans people, by state:

- Delaware 0.64%
- Georgia 0.75%
- Iowa 0.31%
- Washington 0.62%

Figure 54. Poverty rates in Delaware by gender identity

CIS MEN (N=4,358) 11%
CIS WOMEN (N=5,777) 15%
TRANSGENDER (N=44) 11%


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How do we make Washington look more like Delaware and less like Iowa?

For trans people, how do we make Washington look a little more like Georgia?