Transgenderism and Intersexuality

Differences and Commonalities

Presented by John H. Otto, MLIS
video

“XXXY”

A documentary about intersexuality

by

Porter Gale & Laleh Soomekh
“Intersex” is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.

- Intersex Society of North America
What is intersexuality?

Multiple forms….

- Genetics different than XX or XY
  - Klinefelters Syndrome – XXY
  - Turner Syndrome – XO
  - Mosaic patterns

- Hormonal “abnormalities”
  - Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)
  - Congenital adrenal hyperplasia
  - 5-alpha reductase deficiency

- Mixed reproductive organs
  - Hypospadias
  - Ovotestes
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Total number of people whose bodies differ from standard male or female - one in 100 births

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**What is transgenderism?**

1) Umbrella term
   - transsexuals
   - transvestites
   - crossdresser
   - drag queen
   - FTM
   - MTF

   gender queer
   androgyne
   transgenderist
   drag king
   transman
   transwoman

2) Distinct from transsexual

*my preferred umbrella term: transpeople*
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**my preferred umbrella term: transpeople**
Sex – physiology

Gender – psychological or cultural identification
  gender identity
  gender role

Sexual orientation
  heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, etc.
  sex (or gender) of both desirer and desired
  homogenderal
  androphile and gyneophile
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- legal gender
- birth certificates
- marriage issues (same-sex laws)
  - Christie Littleton v. Prange (Texas)
  - same-sex marriage laws

Bodies become “public” property

- questions about genitals
- bodies appropriated by academics
- Jacob Hale’s Suggested Rules for Non-Transsexuals Writing about Transsexuals, Transsexuality, Transsexualism, or Trans ____.

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Resources

Intersex Society of North America
www.isna.org

Bodies Like Ours
www.bodieslikeours.org

Intersex Initiative
http://www.intersexinitiative.org

Gender Education and Advocacy
www.gender.org

National Center for Transgender Equality
www.nctequality.org

World Professional Association of Transgender Health
www.wpath.org

Suggested Rules for Non-Transsexuals Writing about Transsexuals, Transsexuality, Transsexualism, or Trans ____.
http://sandystone.com/hale.rules.html

Intersex version: http://www.intersexinitiative.org/articles/writing-guidelines.html