

Transgenderism and Intersexuality

Differences and Commonalities

Presented by John H. Otto, MLIS

video

“XXXY”

A documentary about intersexuality

by

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What is intersexuality?

“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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Overall frequency about 1 in 1,500 births

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

gender queer

transvestites

androgyne

crossdresser

transgenderist

drag queen

drag king

FTM

transman

MTF

transwoman

2) Distinct from transsexual

my preferred umbrella term: transpeople

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language

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 gynephile

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Differences – IS and Trans

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- physical-based
- not gender identity based
- non-consensual surgeries

Trans

- internally-based
 - normal at birth
- gender identity based
- surgery desired

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Differences (cont.)

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- put on display for medical personal
- some types life threatening
- easy surgery & medical insurance coverage under age 18

Trans

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- Difficult to obtain medical treatment under age 18

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Commonalities

lack of research

cancer risks

“hidden” populations

lack of knowledgeable/competent health care providers

“monstrosities” – societal rejection/discrimination

bodies not fitting “normal”

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Commonalities (cont.)

Legal issues

- * 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 ____.

John Money – began in early 1950’s

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Resources

www.jotto.info

Intersex Society of North America

www.isna.org

Gender Education and Advocacy

www.gender.org

Bodies Like Ours

www.bodieslikeours.org

National Center for Transgender
Equality

www.nctequality.org

Intersex Initiative

<http://www.intersexinitiative.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>