

Components of Gender and Sexual Identity



1. Sex: Our biological “package” (chromosomes, genitalia, hormones, etc.)



Female

Intersex

Male

2. Gender Identity: The psychological knowledge of our gender (regardless of “the package”)

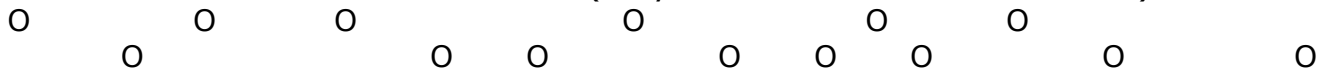


Woman

Neither/Both/Genderqueer/Other

Man

3. Gender Expression: How we tell others our gender using commonly understood cultural and social cues (may be conscious or unconscious)

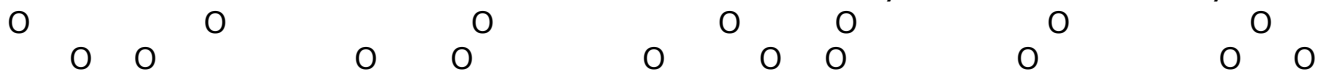


Feminine

Androgynous

Masculine

4. Orientation: Who we are attracted to sexually and/or romantically



Attracted to Men

Bisexual/Pansexual/Asexual

Attracted to Women

5. Sexual Behaviors: What we do sexually



With Men

With Both/With No one/With Anyone

With Women

* Based on the work of Shively & DeCecco, Components of Sexual Identity Journal of Homosexuality, 1977, Vol. 3 p. 41-48

“There isn’t really one simple way to sort out males and females...humans like categories neat, but nature is a slob.” - Alice Dreger, Professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University