

## II. Sexual Orientation

### A. LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered

- **Homosexual** - label for a person who prefers same sex intimate relationship partners (may or may not involve sexual relationships).
- **Bisexual** - label for a person who can be attracted to partners of either sex.
- **Gay** - Homosexually orientation and/or Male Homosexual
- **Lesbian** - Female Homosexual - Named after the Island of Lesbos, Home of the Ancient Greek poet Sappho.
- Gay & Strait are not mutually exclusive categories, in practice.
  - Scientifically they are viewed on a continuum (Lips, 2005)
    - Unidimensional: Strait <----->Gay
    - Bidimensional: Hetererotic low <-----> High  
Homoerotic low <-----> High
    - Tridimensional: Heteroerotic L<---->H  
Homoerotic L<---->H  
Bisexual L<---->H
    - n-dimensional: There is a dimension for everything about another person that one can be attracted to (e.g. eye colors, hair colors, heights, weights, eyebrow shapes, lip colors, there are an infinite number of possible dimension in this list alone).
  - In U.S. culture, Men are more likely to be exclusively homosexual.
  - In some Native American groups homosexual behavior in not necessarily indicative of a homosexual Identity.
  - In a New Guinea tribe ritualized homosexuality in childhood and adolescence (younger boys fellate older boys) is viewed as the rout to manhood
- **Transgendered** - Larger label for both transsexuals and transvestites.
- **Transvestites/Crossdressers** - label for individuals who dress and/or present themselves in ways that give the appearance that they are of a gender or sexual orientation different from their own.
  - Very few "Dress/Drag" full time
  - Dressing is not always for "Passing"
  - Very few actually want to be members of the opposite gender (We would consider such a person to be a Preoperative Transexual)
  - Not all crossdressers are gay or men.
  - Not all corssdressers are performers (Drag Queens/Drag Kings)
  - There is an International forum for formal drag performances.
    - In the International Royal Court System, gay drag kings, lesbian drag kings, and lesbian drag queens typically provide supportive roles to the gay drag queen performers.
- <http://www.yvannesplace.net/> (Wonderful personal account of crossdressing, with massive amount of practical information on the art of crossdressing)
- **Transsexual** - label for individuals who want to change or have changed their

physical/genital appearance to that of a gender different from what they are assigned (typically at birth).

- can be heterosexual or homosexual.
- preoperative vs postoperative transsexuals

- **Intersexed individuals** - Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia and Androgen Insensitive children who were assigned sexes different from their genetic sex.

- These labels are by no means clearly agreed upon by researchers and practitioners. At best they form Fuzzy categories that can overlap and change over time for an individual. (Lips, 2005)

Essentialist vs Social Constructionist Perspectives

- Essentialism - views sexual orientation as a built-in and we must come to terms with this identity.
- Social Constructionism- views sexual orientation as the unique feelings we have about attraction and the cultural definitions we use to interpret these feelings.

## B. Discrimination

### 1. Christian/Hebrew Prohibition -

Leviticus 18:22

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

- Presumably this only applies to Homosexual relationship between men.

Leviticus 20:13

“If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.”

- However the same punishment is proscribed for cursing ones parents, committing adultery, polygamy (but only if the women are mother and daughter), and prostitution (but only if you are the daughter of a priest).

### 2. Homosexuality initially studied as a disorder.

- DSM I (1952)- homosexuality was a diagnosable mental illness
- Sexual Deviation (p. 38-39) were a part of the Sociopathic Personality Disturbance

#### 000-x63 Sexual deviation

This diagnosis is reserved for deviant sexuality which is not symptomatic of more extensive syndromes, such as schizophrenic and obsessional reactions.

The term includes most of the cases formerly classed as “psychopathic personality with pathologic sexuality.” The diagnosis will specify the type of the pathologic behavior, such as homosexuality, transvestism, pedophilia, fetishism and sexual sadism (including rape, sexual assault, mutilation).

- DSM II (1968) - gave more detailed list of the Sexual Deviations. Now listed as part of the Personality Disorders and Non-psychotic Mental Disorders (p.44).

### 302 Sexual deviations *more vulgar*

This category is for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily toward objects other than people of the opposite sex, toward sexual acts not usually associated with coitus, or toward coitus performed under bizarre circumstances as in necrophilia, pedophilia, sexual sadism, and fetishism. Even though many find their practices distasteful, they remain unable to substitute normal sexual behavior for them. This diagnosis is not appropriate for individuals who perform deviant sexual acts because normal sexual objects are not available to them.

#### 302.0 Homosexuality

#### 302.1 Fetishism

#### 302.2 Pedophilia

#### 302.3 Transvestitism

#### 302.4 Exhibitionism

#### 302.5\* Voyeurism\*

#### 302.6\* Sadism\*

#### 302.7\* Masochism\*

#### 302.8 Other sexual deviation

#### [302.9 Unspecified sexual deviation]

1973 (Dec. 15th) This was changed.

- Ego-dystonic Homosexuality - considered a problem if you have a problem with it. If you experience “subjective distress” and “significantly impaired social functioning” (However, in this may be a natural part of the LGB identity development process, see identity development stages below).

- Codified in the DSM III (1980)

- DSM IV (1987) removed Ego-dystonic Homosexuality.

Changed to distress about sexual orientation in general (presumably heterosexuality): “Persistent and marked distress about sexual orientation.”

- Some Institutions still offer sexual reorientation therapy, including aversion therapy techniques.

3. Illegal - Sodomy law were only overturned by supreme court in 2003 - *Lawrence & Garner vs. State of Texas*

- Currently - Homosexuals can legally be fired from their jobs, lose custody of their children, and be discharged from the military for coming out (Lips, 2003, p. 393)

- The Stonewall Riots (1969, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall\\_riots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_riots)) - Sparked the

Formation of the GLF (Gay Liberation Front)  
- The Laramie Project - Matthew Shepard

4- Heterosexim - Discrimination against Non-Heterosexuals by Heterosexuals. (Mio et al., 2006, p. 79).

#### B. Identity Development

Coming out - coming to terms with ones sexual identity and sharing it with others. (Mio et al., 2006, p. 79)

- Not a one time event, must be considered with every new acquaintance.

Cass (1979) Homosexual/Bisexual Identity Development. (Mio et al., 2006, p. 187-188)

- Identity Confusion - begins to question sexual identity

- Identity Comparison - individual fully recognizes his/her feelings about same-sex individuals.

- Identity Tolerance - Hiding ones sexual feelings.

- Identity Acceptance - Fully accepting ones sexual orientation and precedes "coming out" to others.

- Identity Pride - Openly expressing sexual orientation and take pride in identity.

- Identity Synthesis - integration of all aspects of identity.

- Individuals do not necessarily need to pass through every stage.