

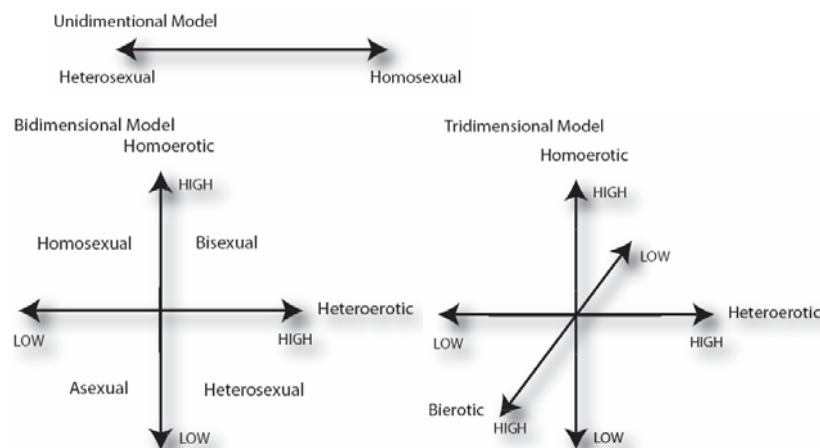
II. Sexual Orientation

A. Definitions

1. **LGBT** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered
2. - **Homosexual** - label for a person who prefers same sex intimate relationship partners (may or may not involve sexual relationships).
3. - **Bisexual** - label for a person who can be attracted to partners of either sex.
4. - **Gay** – label for a Homosexual orientation and/or a Male Homosexual
5. - **Lesbian** – label for a Female Homosexual - Named after the Island of Lesbos, Home of the Ancient Greek poet Sappho.

6- Gay & Strait are not mutually exclusive categories, in practice.

- Scientifically they are viewed on a continuum.
- Several different models of sexual orientation



- n-dimensional model: There is a dimension for everything about another person that one can be attracted to.
 - For example eye colors, hair colors, heights, weights, eyebrow shapes, lip colors, etc.
 - There are an infinite number of possible dimension in this list alone.

7. **Transgendered** - Larger label for both transsexuals and transvestites.

8. **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 Transsexual)
- Not all crossdressers are gay or men.
- Not all corssdressers are performers (Drag Queens/Drag Kings)

- **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.

8. 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.

9. 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.