

The original from personal website here: <https://scottlai.com/2022/09/23/non-binary-gender-data-research-reflection/>

Non-Binary Gender Data Research Reflection

Andrea: Provide me an example of a Binary Variable.

Scott: Gender.

Andrea: Pardon?

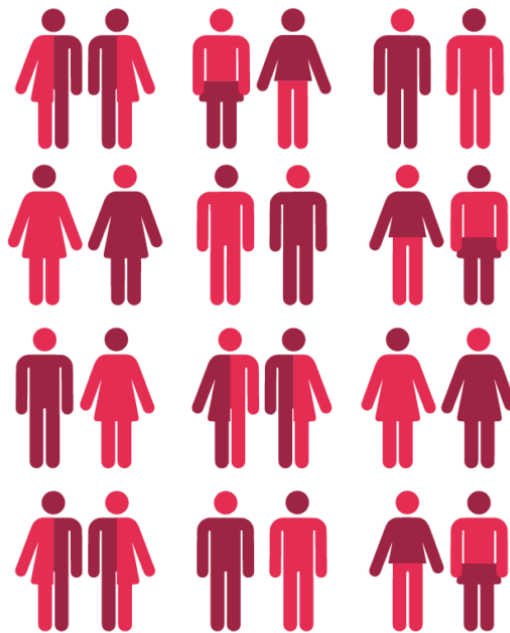
Scott: Gender, like man and woman.

Andrea: (Smiling) Gender is a little be complicated than that.

Class: (Laughing)

It's the conversation I had with my professor during stats class. The gender used in the Stats world got my attention from that moment.

Gender identity never is a thing during my growing years, but it's gradually gotten people's notice recently and become common sense in this society. In the West, gender identity has permeated our personal lives and work. People's sense of gender identity and respect is also systematized accordingly. But in the East, especially in China, the social acceptance of non-gender identity is still in the process due to the "modeled" society. Especially for those living in the local area and having no opportunity to contact the outside world, it is still challenging for them to recognize non-binary gender.



But historically, China has been one of the most tolerant countries for non-binary genders. In China, non-binary gender has never been subjected to massive persecution and repression as in Western countries. Religious beliefs generally dominate the thinking of Western people. For example, Christianity believes that marriage and family must consist of one man and one woman, and anyone who violates God's will should be punished. In medieval Europe, homosexuality was considered a crime, punishable by hanging or burning. However, in ancient China, people's attitude towards homosexuality was calm and indifferent, and there were not many praises for homosexuality, nor much slander and accusations. It is worth mentioning that Chinese classical literature is also sporadically dotted with gay love stories and poems, which is enough to shock Western Christian missionaries.

The earliest recorded homosexuality in China was in the Shang and Zhou dynasties (16th to 11th centuries BC). The "Masters on the Records of the Grand Historian" and "Han Shu" in Chinese historical books once recorded that almost all the emperors of the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC to 8 AD) had homosexuals. Until today, people still talk about the "broken sleeves," an allusion to gay love. Emperor Ai of Han and Dong Xian slept together, and Dong Xian held down the emperor's sleeve. Emperor Ai can't bear to disturb Dong Xian, so he cuts down his sleeve to get up. Descendants then used the term "broken sleeves" to describe homosexual relationships.



During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), homosexuality suffered the worst historical setback. The government at the time believed that homosexuality was a mental illness and would bring shame to society as a whole. Since then, homosexual acts have been found to have committed hooliganism or disturbing social order, and homosexuals had to go underground.

In 1991, China finally eliminated the criminalization of homosexuality. Entertainment venues for gays and lesbians, such as bars, etc., were established.

Due to modern society's affection, the research regarding non-binary gender has slowed growing up in eastern. Data usage has been one of the main focuses. How to collect non-binary gender data and use it has become one of the research fields.

Non-binary gender data is routinely used in social media and government documents. Research fields often consider non-binary gender data as particular data. As an outlier, the non-binary gender has its unique existence value. Existence is reasonable. We must take minority groups as a consideration factor in the data set to analyze and explain the whole population more comprehensively. Because of this, the non-binary gender data is a minority overall, but his representation and research are sometimes more significant than the majority.

Research aside, can the study of minorities advance the course of humanity? We reserve our opinion for now. However, historical turns are usually led by minority innovations. But whether the invention of biological consciousness itself can bring about a conscious change or a physiological change in human civilization is a question we should consider. The value of the research itself is to make breakthroughs in consciousness, and the division between genders is something that human beings are born with and have existed forever. Therefore, I would love to see continuing research about the non-binary gender, which has become increasingly important in data analysis.

GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION BY GENERATION (GLOBAL COUNTRY AVERAGE)

