

Hi Drew. We've got a lot to digest here. I'll dive right into it.

“...your article remains mostly silent on the question of gender. I don't understand how you can claim to be a competent commentator on this issue without acknowledging and exploring the distinction between sex and gender and the different ways that it plays into this.

Yes, the article doesn't discuss gender very much, since that wasn't the topic I chose to talk about. The essay was about the reality of biological sex, and how sex is not defined by how people subjectively feel about themselves. I could identify as a woman/female tomorrow, but that wouldn't make me a woman/female. I'd still be a male, because male and female aren't categories grounded in identity.

I am happy to discuss gender if you tell me your definition of it. But it doesn't really concern me very much, since I am of the opinion that everyone should be free to identify any way they like and express themselves any way they like. You do you. All I am saying is that, no matter how one identifies, they must still have a foot tethered to reality. Biological sex is one of those realities, and it's important to acknowledge in certain contexts.

“Sex reassignment surgery might be an extreme and unjustified response to gender dysphoria in some cases, but the question of when it is justified and when it is not definitely can't be reduced to mere biological sex.”

Nowhere have I ever said I am against people having sex reassignment surgery. I am against administering drugs to children for off-label use that have no long term studies about their adverse health effects, and almost always make gender dysphoria persist when if left alone many kids outgrow adolescent feelings of dysphoria and turn into homosexual adults. Adults can do whatever they like. I am absolutely supportive of people have sex reassignment surgery to help ameliorate their dysphoria.

“Why are you more qualified to say things about this than the doctors, psychologists, family and friends, and most importantly, the actual people who confront this set of issues?”

I'm not. Many doctors are speaking out about this as well. I've read a massive amount of the literature on puberty blockers to know it's a dangerous experiment being ran on kids. I also am aware of the phenomenon of rapid onset gender dysphoria (ROGD), and the fact that in many schools trans identities appear to be the result of a social contagion.

“More importantly, why should we believe that the ideology you are claiming is operating in these cases IS in fact a predominant one?”

Because it's being implemented into laws in both the US and UK, and argued in court cases. Biological males are being allowed to compete in sports meant for females because they simply “identify” as a female, despite having garnered the irreversible performance enhancing effects conferred by male puberty. This ideology is everywhere, and spreading.

“Your claim that it harms feminine boys and masculine girls, or other members of the "LGB" community hinges on the belief that the way you are thinking about it is the way that the majority are thinking about. Where does your data on this actually come from? Because I guarantee that the majority of these conversations are happening in forums that you are not a member of...”

It's the way many gender activists think about it, and that's evident by the laws they are trying to pass. The rates of young girls being administered to gender clinics claiming they're boys has risen nearly 1000% percent over the last couple of years. And many detransitioners are coming forward telling about their experiences. Spend any amount of time trying to tell people that biological males should not be allowed to play in female sports and you'll reap a whirlwind of hate from this group. This idea is being published in the NYT and other massive media outlets. It is widespread.

“Insisting or even suggesting that biological sex is the most important aspect of this discussion seems short sighted to say the least.”

Acknowledging the reality of biological sex is important in some contexts. Not in every context, but in some. That's all my essay has argued. Not acknowledging biological sex can also be a form of oppression against other vulnerable groups like women, gays and lesbians, and children, as outlined in my essay.

“The fact that the vast majority of humans are not biologically or genetically intersex probably has very little to do with the kinds of decisions that transgender people actually make about their own psychological and social realities.”

Exactly. Intersex has absolutely nothing to do with transgenderism. That's a point I made in my essay. But many trans activists use the existence of intersex people to make the claim that sex is a social construct or a spectrum, and therefore everyone should be able to simply identify in any sex category they choose. That is simply wrong. Just because some people can't be neatly classified doesn't mean that nobody can. The vast majority of people are unambiguously male and female, and that's an important fact to acknowledge in some contexts.

“I just don't understand quite what you're trying to do in regards to this issue, and why... sports is one thing, but you've moved well past that at this point.”

I've moved past sports because I have seen other ways in which this ideology harms people. My position has changed based on new data.

“I also have trans and non-binary friends and students that seem to be either erased or actively vilified by the way you talk about this issue, at least in your publications. I'm just trying to explore that appearance and help correct for it if I can.”

I am not vilifying or erasing anyone. Trans people exist. Gender dysphoria is real. So is biological sex. I am sad that they are offended by my writings, but I never call people names or make claims about people. I only attack ideas. I only argue my position out of genuine compassion for people, trans or otherwise. I think gender ideology does a lot of harm, and the trans community would

benefit from a more evidence-based approach to their issues. I worry that their ideology is going to prevent them from making any real progress, and will result in a backlash because most people think the ideology is total nonsense. I see their arguments and narratives veering off the tracks of reason, and so I am waving a flag urging them to reconsider the direction they're going in. Again, all out of nothing but compassion.

Thanks for your comments buddy!