

# Theorizing Gender



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# INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

- ① Demonstrate a sound understanding of the different views explaining gender



# Conceptualizing Sex and Gender

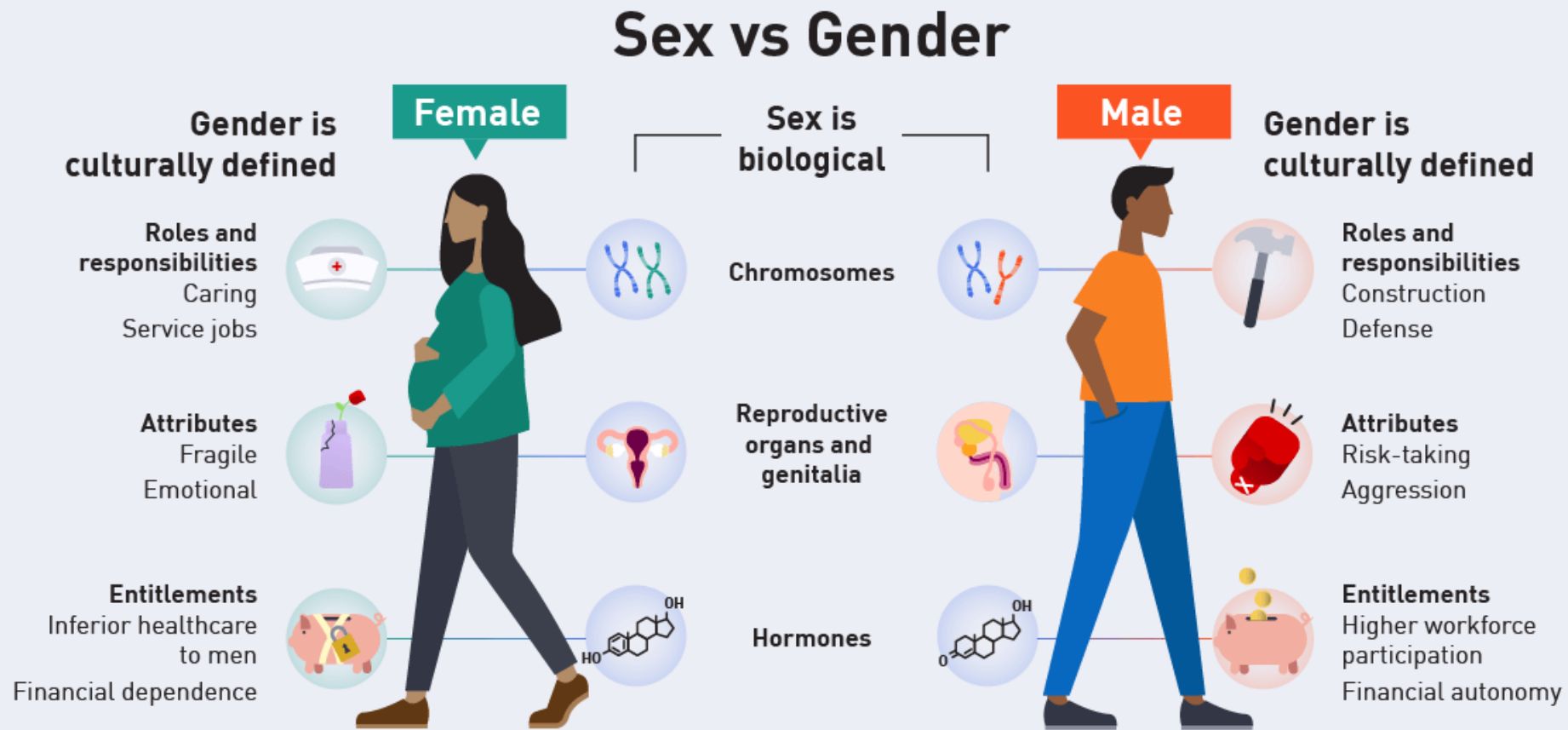
How do we  
understand sex  
and gender?



*Clipart retrieved on 21 September 2021 at <https://bit.ly/3ktxQy4>*



# Conceptualizing Sex and Gender



THE LANCET

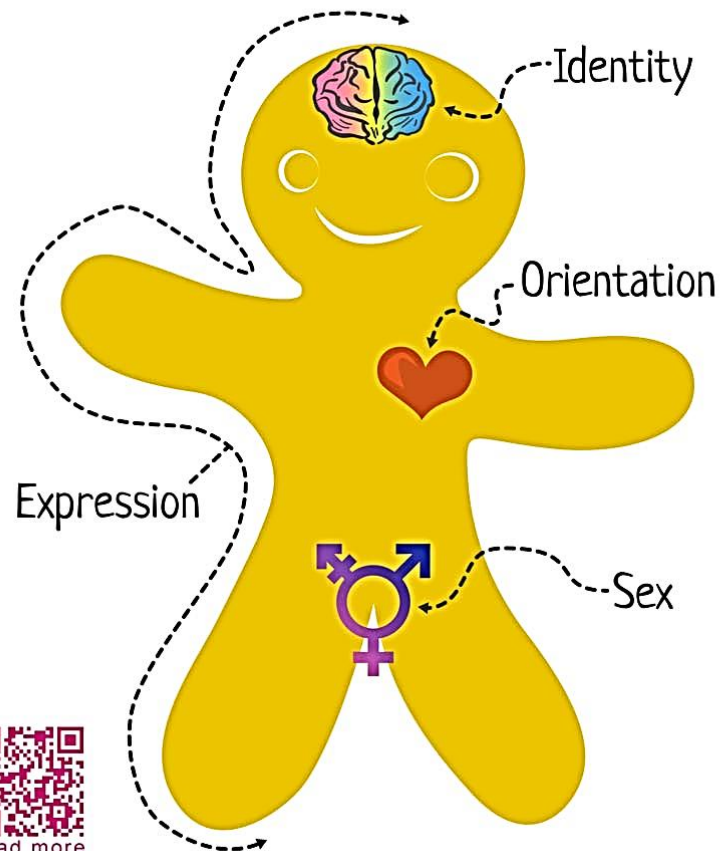
Source: Lancet Series on Gender Equality, Norms and Health. Paper 1, 2019



# Understanding Basic Concepts

## The Genderbread Person

by [www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com](http://www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com)



Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormonal levels) and how you interpret what that means.



Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.



Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.



Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.

Image retrieved on 3 September 2020 at  
<https://bit.ly/iV9OIR>



# Sociological Perspective on Gender and Sexuality

## GENDER

views family as the most integral ★  
component of society including its  
assumptions about gender roles

views men as the dominant group & ★  
women as the subordinate group

views gender as something we do or ★  
perform, not something we are or have

Structural  
Functionalism

Conflict  
Theory

Symbolic  
Interactionism

## SEXUALITY

★ stresses the importance of regulating  
sexual behavior to ensure marital  
cohesion & family stability

★ stresses that sexuality is another area in  
which power differentials are present  
& where dominant groups actively  
work to promote their worldview as  
well as their economic interests

★ focuses on the meanings associated  
with sexuality & sexual orientation



# Theories on Gender Development

★ **Freudian Theory:** focuses on the process of identification (*a process by which a person absorbs the behaviors, attitudes & characteristics exhibited by his/her mother or someone very close to the individual.*)

★ **Cultural Transmission Theory:** contends that the acquisition of gender identity & behaviors are shaped by parents, teachers & other adults by reinforcing responses that are deemed appropriate to the child's gender role & discouraging inappropriate ones.

★ **Cognitive Development Theory:** asserts that children actively seek to acquire gender identities & roles.

★ **Self-Construal Theory:** asserts that gender difference is based primarily on relationships and group membership.





# Theories on Gender Development

- ★ **Feminist Theory**: it is a consequence of the universal movement to promote the self-actualization of women worldwide.

It is a social movement that consists of a set of beliefs & actions that centers on assuring equality between men & women : **FEMINISM**



1. **Liberal Feminism**: believes that all people are created equal & should not be denied equal opportunity based on their gender.
2. **Socialist Feminism**: states that the root of gender inequality is seen in societal expectations on the role of men & women in the household.
3. **Radical/Separatist Feminism**: argues that sexism is the tool by which men used to oppress women.
4. **Post-Modern Feminism**: argues that knowledge is created from a male's standpoint &, thus, it is completely biased.



# Theories on Gender Development

- ★ **Queer Theory**: it is an interdisciplinary approach to sexuality studies that identifies Western society's rigid splitting of gender into male & female roles, & questions how we have been taught to think about sexual orientation.

According to Jagose (1996), queer theory focuses on mismatches between anatomical sex, gender identity & sexual orientation, not just the division of male & female or heterosexual & homosexual.

For them, identities are multiple, fragmented & constantly shifting, & sexual preferences are not seen as fixed & desires are not static.

Theorists utilizing queer theory strive to question the ways society perceives and experiences sex, gender and sexuality opening the door to new scholarly understanding.





# Gender-Role Stereotyping

It is the feature we assigned to women and men in society, features not assigned due to biological sex but due to the social roles that men and women hold.



## Components

- ★ **Descriptive**: it is limiting, as we judge feminine women as less competent for leadership & masculine men as less capable of nurturing children.
- ★ **Prescriptive**: it says that men should be masculine & women should be feminine.

**Category-based**: occurs when you ★  
do not know much about a  
person except the category to  
which he/she belongs.

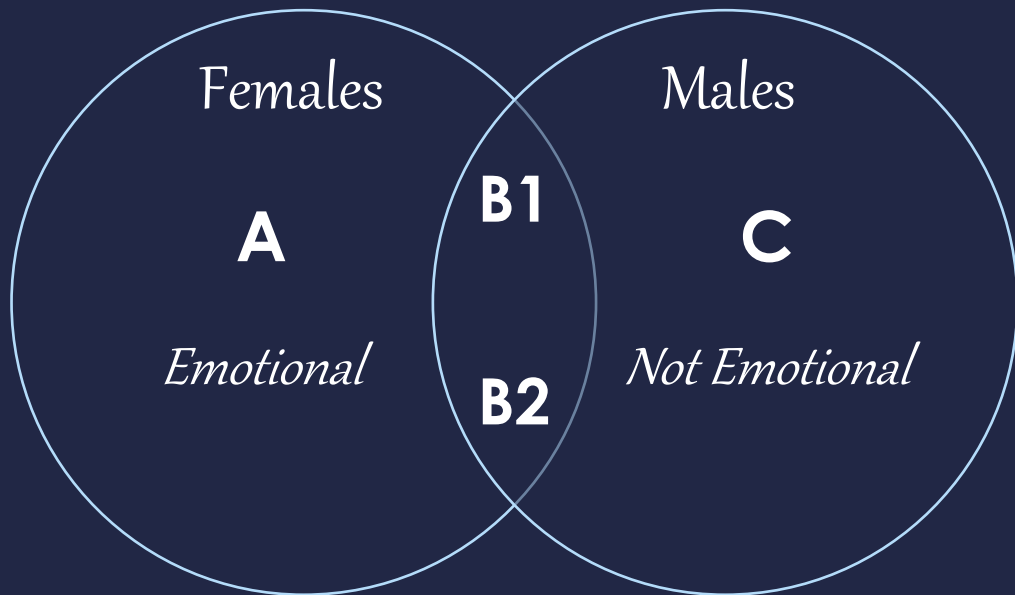
**Target-based**: the perceptions we ★  
have about a person based on  
individuating information.

## Expectancies



# Gender-Role Stereotyping

Do gender-role stereotypes reflect the true situation?



It substantially affects an individual's conformity and self-image. Many people tend to conform to the stereotypes in two ways.

- ★ **Impression management:** people who conform to stereotypes do not necessarily believe in the stereotype. They merely conform to impress other people.
- ★ **Self-fulfilling prophecy:** people tend to believe in the stereotype for they regard it as the best way to behave as females or males.



# Gendering and Sexuality

How does gender is maintained in society?

★ Child-Rearing

★ Institutions of Mass Socialization

- 
1. Manipulation
  2. Canalization
  3. Verbal Appellation
  4. Activity Exposure

Sexuality is influenced by gender norms ★

Ideologies around sexuality are used to control women ★

Sexuality is linked to poverty ★

Gender inequality fuels transmission of HIV/AIDs ★

Sexuality is a survival issue ★

Attention to sexuality is key to meeting the Millennium ★

Development Goals

Sexuality can contribute to empowerment and well-being ★

Sexuality is a site of political struggle ★

Why the issues surrounding gender & sexuality do matter in contemporary society?



# Exposing Gender Development

- ★ Biology influences gender development, but its effects are difficult to separate from social influences.
- ★ Children become aware of gender roles in their earliest years, & they come to understand & perform these roles through socialization.
- ★ The social construction of sexuality refers to how society created definitions about the cultural appropriateness of sex-linked behavior that shape the way people see & experience sexuality.





# Decoding Sex and Gender

- ★ Sex should not be interpreted to be synonymous with gender. Sex is a biological term, while gender is a cultural concept. Their differences rest on what they have upon conception and birth, and on what they do in the presence or absence of other people.
- ★ Roles play a very important component in gender identity and sexual orientation. But not all roles can be done by both sexes.
- ★ Both men and women perform multiple roles based on the extent of necessity and practicality.
- ★ Stereotypes on gender roles do serve a worthwhile purpose especially on the issue of influence on gender identity and sexual orientation.
- ★ Gender and sexuality are both substantial issues in contemporary society which require responsive actions and measures to achieve gender equality, people empowerment, national unity, and solidarity.







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# Thank you