[Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism" \o "Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English)

**Cisgender** (often abbreviated to simply **cis**) is a term for people who have a [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity), or gender expression, that matches their [assigned sex](/wiki/Sex_assignment). Cisgender may also be defined as those who have "a gender identity or perform a gender role society considers appropriate for one's sex."[[1]](#cite_note-1) It is the opposite of the term [*transgender*](/wiki/Transgender).[[2]](#cite_note-2) There are two versions of the term: *cis male* for "male assigned male at birth" or *cis female* for "female assigned female at birth". Further derivations analogously include "cis man" and "cis woman", as well as [cissexism](/wiki/Cissexism) (or "cissexual assumption" or "cisnormativity").

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## Etymology and terminology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Transgender sidebar](/wiki/Template:Transgender_sidebar)

German [sexologist](/wiki/Sexology) [Volkmar Sigusch](/wiki/Volkmar_Sigusch) used the term *cissexual* (*zissexuell* in German) in a peer-reviewed publication. In his 1998 essay "The Neosexual Revolution", he cites his two-part 1991 article "Die Transsexuellen und unser nosomorpher Blick" ("Transsexuals and our nosomorphic view") as the origin of the term.[[3]](#cite_note-3) He also used the term in the title of a 1995 article, "Transsexueller Wunsch und zissexuelle Abwehr" (or: "Transsexual desire and cissexual defense").[[4]](#cite_note-4) *Cisgender* has its origin in the [Latin](/wiki/Latin)-derived prefix [*cis*](/wiki/Wikt:cis-)*-*, meaning "on this side of", which is an antonym for the Latin-derived prefix [*trans-*](/wiki/Wikt:trans-)*,* meaning "across from" or "on the other side of". This usage can be seen in the [cis–trans distinction](/wiki/Cis–trans_isomerism) in chemistry, the cis–trans or [complementation](/wiki/Complementation_(genetics)) test in genetics, in [Ciscaucasia](/wiki/Ciscaucasia) (from the Russian perspective) and in the ancient Roman term [Cisalpine Gaul](/wiki/Cisalpine_Gaul) (i.e., "[Gaul](/wiki/Gaul) on this side of the [Alps](/wiki/Alps)"). In the case of gender, *cis-* is used to refer to the alignment of gender identity with assigned sex.<ref name=MW>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Sociologists Kristen Schilt and Laurel Westbrook define *cisgender* as a label for "individuals who have a match between the gender they were assigned at birth, their bodies, and their personal identity".[[2]](#cite_note-2) A number of derivatives of the terms *cisgender* and *cissexual* include *cis male* for "male assigned male at birth", *cis female* for "female assigned female at birth", analogously *cis man* and *cis woman*, as well as [*cissexism*](/wiki/Cissexism) and [*cissexual assumption*](/wiki/Cissexual_assumption). In addition, one study published in the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* used the term *cisnormativity*, akin to sexual diversity studies' [*heteronormativity*](/wiki/Heteronormativity).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) A related adjective is *gender-normative*; because as Eli R. Green writes: "'cisgendered' is used [instead of the more popular 'gender normative'] to refer to people who do not identify with a gender diverse experience, without enforcing existence of a normative gender expression".[[7]](#cite_note-7) In this way, *cisgender* is preferable because, unlike the term *gender-normative*, it does not imply that [transgender](/wiki/Transgender) identities are abnormal.

[Julia Serano](/wiki/Julia_Serano) has defined *cissexual* as "people who are not [transsexual](/wiki/Transsexual) and who have only ever experienced their mental and physical sexes as being aligned", while *cisgender* is a slightly narrower term for those who do not identify as transgender (a larger cultural category than the more clinical transsexual).[[8]](#cite_note-8) For Jessica Cadwallader, *cissexual* is "a way of drawing attention to the unmarked [norm](/wiki/Norm_(sociology)), against which [trans](/wiki/Transgender) is identified, in which a person feels that their [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity) matches their body/sex".[[9]](#cite_note-9) The terms *cisgender* and *cissexual* were used in the 2006 article in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*[[10]](#cite_note-10) and Serano's 2007 book [*Whipping Girl*](/wiki/Whipping_Girl),[[8]](#cite_note-8) after which the term gained some popularity among English-speaking activists and scholars.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) Jillana Enteen wrote in 2009 that "cissexual" is "meant to show that there are embedded assumptions encoded in expecting this seamless conformity".[[14]](#cite_note-14) Serano also uses the related term *cissexism*, "which is the belief that transsexuals' identified genders are inferior to, or less authentic than, those of cissexuals".[[15]](#cite_note-15) In 2010, the term *cisgender* [*privilege*](/wiki/Social_privilege) appeared in academic literature, defined as the "set of unearned advantages that individuals who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth accrue solely due to having a cisgender identity".[[16]](#cite_note-16) While some believe that the term *cisgender* is [politically correct](/wiki/Politically_correct),[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) some medical academics use the term and have recognized its importance in transgender studies since the 1990s.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) In February 2014, Facebook began offering "custom" gender options, allowing users to identify with one or more gender-related terms from a selected list, including cis, cisgender, and others.[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26) *Cisgender* was also added to the [*Oxford English Dictionary*](/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary) in 2013, defined as "designating a person whose sense of personal identity corresponds to the sex and gender assigned to him or her at birth (in contrast with transgender)."[[27]](#cite_note-27)

## Critiques[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

### From feminism and gender studies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Krista Scott-Dixon](/wiki/Krista_Scott-Dixon) wrote in 2009: "I prefer the term non-trans to other options such as cissexual/cisgendered."[[28]](#cite_note-28) She holds this view because she believes the term "non-trans" is clearer to average people and will help normalize transgender individuals.

Women's and Gender Studies scholar [Mimi Marinucci](/wiki/Mimi_Marinucci) writes that some consider the "cisgender–transgender" binary to be just as dangerous or self-defeating as the [masculine–feminine gender binary](/wiki/Gender_binary), because it lumps people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) arbitrarily and over-simplistically with [heteronormative](/wiki/Heteronormative) class of people as opposed to with transgender people. Characterizing LGB individuals together with heterosexual, non-trans people may problematically suggest that LGB individuals, unlike transgender individuals, "experience no mismatch between their own gender identity and gender expression and cultural expectations regarding gender identity and expression".[[29]](#cite_note-29)

### From intersex organizations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[Intersex](/wiki/Intersex) people are born with atypical physical sex characteristics that can complicate initial sex assignment and lead to involuntary or coerced medical treatment.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) The term cisgender "can get confusing" in relation to people with intersex conditions, according to the [Advocates for Informed Choice](/wiki/Advocates_for_Informed_Choice) Inter/Act project.[[32]](#cite_note-32) [Hida Viloria](/wiki/Hida_Viloria) of [OII-USA](/wiki/OII-USA) suggests that, as a person with a body that doesn't meet male or female norms and a non-binary gender identity, this may arguably make Viloria "cisgender", but it fails to account for gender-based stigmatization of intersex bodies.[[33]](#cite_note-33) [Organisation Intersex International Australia](/wiki/Organisation_Intersex_International_Australia) argues that, while most intersex people are not transgender, the term is problematic because of intersex people's experience, or risk of experiencing, "involuntary medical treatment to impose stereotypical sex characteristics".[[34]](#cite_note-34) Intersex professor [Cary Gabriel Costello](/wiki/Cary_Gabriel_Costello) has proposed using the term "ipso gender" instead of cisgender for intersex people who agree with their birth sex designation.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

* [Feminist views on transgenderism and transsexualism](/wiki/Feminist_views_on_transgenderism_and_transsexualism)
* [Gender taxonomy](/wiki/Gender_taxonomy)
* [List of transgender-related topics](/wiki/List_of_transgender-related_topics)
* [Womyn-born womyn](/wiki/Womyn-born_womyn)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

* Gorton R., Buth J., and Spade D. [*Medical Therapy and Health Maintenance for Transgender Men: A Guide for Health Care Providers*](http://www.nickgorton.org/Medical%20Therapy%20and%20HM%20for%20Transgender%20Men_2005.pdf). Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. San Francisco, CA. 2005. ISBN 0-9773250-0-8
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Wikimedia](/wiki/Template:Wikimedia)

* [Gender and Sexuality Center FAQ](http://ddce.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/frequently-asked-questions/), [University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/University_of_Texas_at_Austin) Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
* [The Queer Community Has to Stop Being Transphobic: Realizing My Cisgender Privilege](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-clayton/queer-community-transphobic_b_2727064.html), Todd Clayton, [*The Huffington Post*](/wiki/The_Huffington_Post), February 27, 2013

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[Category:Gender identity](/wiki/Category:Gender_identity) [Category:Political correctness](/wiki/Category:Political_correctness) [Category:Transgender](/wiki/Category:Transgender) [Category:Words coined in the 1990s](/wiki/Category:Words_coined_in_the_1990s)