

Sex, Gender, and Bodies

Chapter 5




Photo courtesy of Royalty Free/CGP&S.

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

Chapter Outline

- How Does Sex Develop?
- Sex, Gender Identity, and Gender Typing
- Sex and Sexual Orientation
- Sex as a Social Construction
- Beyond the Binary
- Making a Difference

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SEX




Photo courtesy of Digital Vision.

- There are only **two** sexes
 - Bodies always fall into two clear, natural categories, based on biological facts
- Sex exists as a biological fact independently of anyone's beliefs about it
- Sex and gender *naturally* go together

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 1

Sexual differentiation: genetic, hormonal, and anatomical components that develop gradually before birth

Autosomes: 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes inherited by each human being

Sex Chromosomes: one pair of chromosomes, usually called X and Y chromosomes

- **Female:** Person who has two X chromosomes, X X
- **Male:** Person who has one X and one Y chromosome, X Y

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-4

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 2

Sex-differentiation region of the Y chromosome or SRY

- Gene that stimulates the embryonic sex glands or **gonads** to grow and develop into **testes**
 - **Testes:** Pair of male sex glands that begin producing sperm starting at puberty
- Develops at about the sixth week of pregnancy

Androgens: steroid hormones produced by the testes

- **Testosterone:** androgen that stimulates the development of internal structures of the male sexual anatomy
- **Dihydrotestosterone:** androgen that stimulates the growth of the penis and the formation of testicles

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-5

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 3

- **Mullerian duct inhibiting hormone or M I H:** prevents the internal embryonic structures from developing into female organs

In female fetuses, the gonads develop into ovaries

- **Ovaries:** pair of female sex glands containing eggs
- **Estrogens:** steroid hormones produced by the **ovaries**
 - Female structures of vagina, labia, and clitoris develop largely before the ovaries are formed

Assigned sex: label of female or male given to a baby based on the appearance of its genitals

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-6

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 4

Intersexuality: number of specific *variations* on the theme of biological sex

- **Intersexed individuals:** people with any of these variations

Variations in Fetal Development

- **Klinefelter's syndrome:** X X Y chromosomal irregularity in men that causes them to have a less masculine physique and appearance
- **Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome or CAIS:** Condition in which androgens fail to prompt development of male reproductive structures

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-7

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 5

- **Turner's syndrome:** missing sex chromosome
 - Fetus with this condition lacks androgens and estrogens during development and does not develop complete internal reproductive structures
- **Hermaphrodites:** historical label for people with sexually ambiguous bodies

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-8

HOW DOES SEX DEVELOP? 6

- **Partial androgen insensitivity or PAIS:** causes an ambiguous sex organ externally, which could be classified as either a large clitoris or a small penis
 - Internally, the testes may be located in the abdomen or the labia, instead of a scrotal sac
- **Congenital adrenal hyperplasia or CAH:** genetically inherited malfunction of one or more of the enzymes needed to make the steroid hormone, cortisol
 - Causes the mother's body to overproduce other hormones, which act as androgens on the developing fetus

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-9

Sex, Gender Identity, and Gender Typing, 1

Core Gender Identity: fundamental sense of belonging to a biological sex

- Underlying assumption is that all the components of sex and gender should fit together

Growing up with Turner syndrome

- One does not need two X chromosomes to develop a core gender identity as female
- Turner syndrome may cause developmental problems




Photo courtesy of Digital Vision/PhotoBank.

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-10

Sex, Gender Identity, and Gender Typing, 2

Androgen insensitivity and identity

- Androgen insensitivity occurs in fewer than 1 in every 100,000 births
- Infants with CAIS are almost always classified as female and raised as girls

Gender identity in intersex children seems to be largely, but not entirely, dependent on social factors

- Does not mean that gender identity and gender typing are unrelated to biological sex

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-11

Transgender Identity

Transgender: general term referring to a variety of gender variant identities

Gender Dysphoria or G D: official psychiatric category for those individuals who experience a disjunction between their assigned sex and their core gender identity

- Strong and persistent desire to be the other sex or belief that one is really the other sex

Gender affirmation surgery: surgery to change genital anatomy and secondary sex characteristics to conform to gender identity

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-12

Sex and Sexual Orientation, 1

Sexual orientation: multidimensional concept involving erotic attraction, affectional relationships, sexual behavior, erotic fantasies, and emotional attachments

Is There a Gay Gene?

- Several studies have shown that same-sex sexual orientation runs in families
- Studies suggest that either particular family environments or genetic factors could increase the likelihood of L G B orientations, but cannot distinguish between the two kinds of factors

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-13

Sex and Sexual Orientation, 2

- Recent studies of genetic sequencing have identified specific linkages on the X chromosome related to gay sexual orientation in men
 - Twin studies help separate the influences of genes and environment by comparing monozygotic, or M Z, with dizygotic, D Z, twins
 - If M Z twins share the same sexual orientation more often than D Z twins do, it suggests that there is some genetic contribution to sexual orientation
 - 66 percent of the M Z co-twins of gay men were also gay, compared with 30 percent of the D Z co-twins (Whitam et al., 1993)
- For females, there is little or no relationship between genetic similarity and lesbian or bisexual orientation

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-14

Hormones and Sexual Orientation

Individuals with partial androgen insensitivity syndrome are X Y males who effectively receive little androgen during fetal development

- Develop ambiguous genitalia

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education. 5-15

SEX as a SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION



Photo courtesy of Sean Wray/Getty Images

Social Construction: assumptions underlying our commonsense beliefs about sex are products of a specific culture, not universal or fixed truths about nature

When an intersexed child is born, physicians attempt to decide the **optimal gender** for the child

- Criteria for best fit are flexible
- Reproductive potential, sexual function, appearance, and the person's core gender identity need to be considered

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

Rethinking Gender Dysphoria

There is no evidence that cross-gender identity or behaviors in themselves create psychological problems or distress

- Being stigmatized creates such problems

G D diagnostic category remains controversial

Medical and psychiatric treatment of intersex and transgender provides evidence that both sex and gender are processes of social consensus and social enforcement

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

Beyond the Binary, 1

Third sexes across cultures

- In many cultures, the idea that people come in more than two sexes is *common*
- **Hijras or Aravanis** in India
 - Third sex or "third nature" people who are neither men nor women
 - Adopt female names and clothes, but they differ from women by behavior and their non-childbearing status
- **fa'afafine** in Samoa
 - Translates as "in the way of a woman"
 - Biological males who dress and behave as women and take up women's tasks such as caregiving and teaching
 - Treated like women in social interactions, and they are clearly differentiated from biological women and men

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

Beyond the Binary, 2

- **Berdache** in North American Indian culture
 - Third sex category also called the *two-spirit people*
 - Biological males who dress as women and adopt flexible gender roles
- **Pledged virgin** in the Balkans, or former Yugoslavia and Albania
 - Third sex category for **women**
 - Nonsexual
 - Involves adopting the men's role when there is no man available
 - No longer considered or treated as a woman (Malfatto and Prtoric, 2014)

Various third-sex categories around the world challenge the assumption that sex is a binary category

- Third-sex people are not considered to be gay in their respective cultures

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-19

Genderqueer

People whose gender identities are neither exclusively male nor female, but instead are outside the gender binary

Also referred to as gender-expansive, non-binary, or agender

Genderfluid: person who moves between genders or whose gender fluctuates and changes across time

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-20

Making a Difference

Equality for Gender Minorities

- **Transphobia** or **genderism**: negative attitudes toward gender-variant people, are prevalent, and a threat to the safety of transgender individuals (Levitt and Ippolito, 2014a)
- The American Psychological Association has stated a non-discrimination policy on the basis of gender identity (A P A, 2009)



Photo courtesy of Rapshy-Fran/DORIS.

Accepting biological and social diversity

- Idea that not only gender but biological sex is a social construction is disturbing to some
- Acceptance must grow

Copyright © 2018 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

5-21
