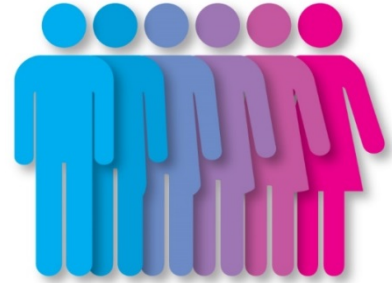


# Gender Identity and Sexuality



Patricia Weerakoon  
and  
Kamal Weerakoon

Presented as an ISCAST-CASE Lecture at New College, UNSW  
on Monday 20th April 2015 at 7.30 pm

It is suggested that this pdf file be used in conjunction with the accompanying mp3 audio lecture file. The pdf document has two slides per page together with a final page of references at the end.

Note that there is also a separate Q & A mp3 audio file

# Gender Identity and Sexuality



Patricia Weerakoon  
and  
Kamal Weerakoon

## The Bible assumes binary gender

Gen 1:27: "male and female he created them"

Jesus affirms the created order in Matt 19:4

Jesus was unambiguously a man

The metaphoric use of husband and wife is never gender ambiguous

Even in wrongful sexual activity – e.g. Sodom – gender is not ambiguous



## Outline

1. Bible on gender
2. Current state of scientific study of gender & sexuality
3. Social attitudes to gender
4. Proposed Christian response
5. Resources

## Binary gender grounds fellowship

Biblical peace: Fellowship between and because of **difference**.  
**Not** fellowship among sameness.

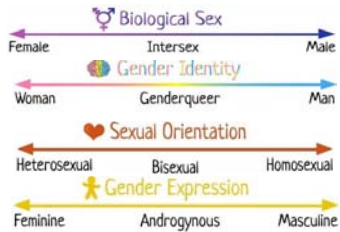
## 1. The Bible on Gender



## 2. Gender Science



### The **Complexity** of Sex and Gender



Gender non-conforming? Or Gender Dysphoria?



### Biological Sex (natal sex): Intrauterine development

	Male	Female	Disorders of sexual development (DsD)
Sex Chromosomes	XY Sex (Sry gene)	XX	Turners syndrome Klinefelters syndrome
Gonads, Testis or Ovaries	Testis	Ovary	Ovo-testis
Hormones	Testosterone	(Oestrogen)	Congenital adrenal hypertrophy Androgen insensitivity S
The Genitalia	Male	Female	Ambiguous genitalia
Brain Sex – neurology	Male	Female	The last frontier?

### Same Sex Sexuality (Orientation)

**Same sex attraction: Who are you erotically attracted to?**  
 Only SSA – 1.1% men, 0.5% women; Mainly SSA – 1.0% men, 0.9% women; Equally to both 0.4% men, 1.4% women

**Same sex behaviour: Whom have you had sex with?**  
 Only SS – 0.9% men, 0.3% women; Mainly SS – 1.1% men, 0.8% women; Equally with both 0.3% men, 0.8% women

**Sexual identity: How do you think of yourself?**  
 Homosexual – 1.9% men, 1.2% women; Bisexual – 1.3% men, 2.2% women.

Does NOT consider: **arousal and fantasy**

Richters et.al. 2014

### Complexity of brain sex/gender

#### Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome

- Genetic male: XY chromosomes
- Gonads male: Testis (undescended)
- Hormone: Testosterone
- Gender identity: female
- Internal genitalia not developed
- External genitalia female (vagina)



Eden Atwood

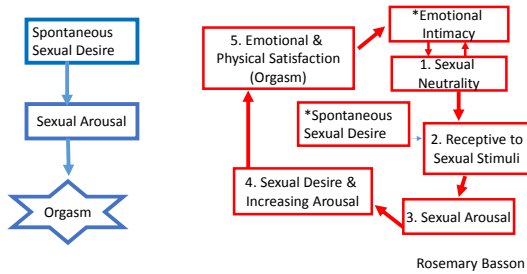
### Gender expression or sex roles



‘Characteristics in personality, appearance, and behavior that in a given culture and historical period are designated as masculine or feminine.’

What does it mean to be a man? A woman?  
 Does it really matter?

### Complementary roles in sexual response



### World Association of Sexual Health

2014 declaration of Sexual Rights:

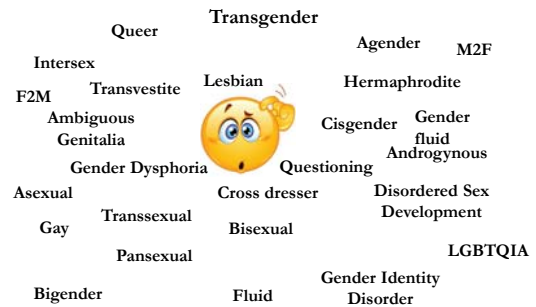
#### 3. The right to autonomy and bodily integrity:

Everyone has the right to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their body. This includes the choice of sexual behaviours, practices, partners and relationships with due regards to the rights of others.

### 3. Social Attitudes Towards Gender



### The Confusion of Sex and Gender



### Narcissistic individualistic hedonism

Fluidity: gender is considered a spectrum with no normative connection to one's biological sex.

Voluntarism: a person is whatever they want themselves to be, irrespective of biology, social norms, or any external authority.

### 4. Towards a Christian Response



### Confusion happens

One of the effects of sin is misalignment from God's created pattern;

Including biological misalignment.

Therefore, gender concerns are not always a mental disorder; not always a "choice".

## 5. Resources (Shameless Advertising)

### Jesus is the answer

**ALL** Christians find their identity in **CHRIST** and are fundamentally defined by **HIM**.



We all need a supportive Christian community where we can be honest about our struggles.



<http://www.christcollege.edu.au/sexualityidentity>

### Following Jesus

Voluntary heteronomy:  
God's created pattern remains the ideal which governs healthy behaviour for Christians.

Explore counselling and medical solutions for dysphoria – with the created pattern in mind.



Email: [patricia.weerakoon@sydney.edu.au](mailto:patricia.weerakoon@sydney.edu.au)  
Website: <http://patriciaweerakoon.com/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.weerakoon>  
Twitter: [@kamalini](https://twitter.com/kamalini)

Email: [kamal.weerakoon@gmail.com](mailto:kamal.weerakoon@gmail.com)  
Blog: <http://thinkingofgod.org/multicultural-ministry-matters/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kamal.weerakoon>  
Twitter: [@kamalweerakoon](https://twitter.com/kamalweerakoon)

Note that there is also an mp3 audio Q & A file,  
and that a list of references follows

## Gender Identity and Sexuality



Patricia Weerakoon  
and  
Kamal Weerakoon

Please note that a list of references follows

## References:

- Ansara, Y. G., & Hegarty, P. (2012). Cisgenderism in psychology: Pathologising and misgendering children from 1999 to 2008. *Psychology and Sexuality*, 3(2), 137–160. doi:10.1080/19419899.2011.576696
- Baudewijntje P.C. Kreukels Thomas D. Steensma • Annelou L.C. de Vries - editors (2014) *Gender Dysphoria and Disorders of Sex Development Progress in Care and Knowledge* Springer Science+Business Media New York
- Bockting, Walter O (2014) Transgender identity development. Eds:Tolman, Deborah L.; Diamond, Lisa M.; Bauermeister, José A.; George, William H.; Pfaus, James G.; Ward, L. Monique. *APA handbook of sexuality and psychology, Vol. 1: Person-based approaches. APA handbooks in psychology.*, (pp. 739-758). Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association, xxviii, 804 pp. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/14193-024>
- Delaney M. Skerrett PhD, Kairi Kõlves PhD & Diego De Leo DSc, PhD (2015): Are LGBT Populations at a Higher Risk for Suicidal Behaviors in Australia? Research Findings and Implications, *Journal of Homosexuality*, DOI: 10.1080/00918369.2014.1003009
- Diamond, L.M. (2014). Sexuality and same-sex sexuality in relationships. In J. Simpson & J. Davidio (Eds.), *Handbook of personality and social psychology* (Vol. 3, pp. 523-553). Washington, DC: APA. Published, 01/2014
- Leonard, W., Pitts, M., Mitchell, A., Lyons, A., Smith, A., Patel, S., & Barrett, A. (2012). *Private Lives 2: The second national survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Australians*. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.
- Mustanski, Brian; Kuper, Laura; Greene, George J. Tolman, (2014) Development of sexual orientation and identity. Eds: Deborah L.; Diamond, Lisa M.; Bauermeister, José A; George, William H; Pfaus, James G; Ward, L. Monique. *APA handbook of sexuality and psychology, Vol. 1: Person-based approaches. APA handbooks in psychology.*, (pp. 597-628). Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association, xxviii, 804 pp. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/14193-019>
- Riggs, D. W., Ansara, G. Y. and Treharne, G. J. (2015), An Evidence-Based Model for Understanding the Mental Health Experiences of Transgender Australians. *Australian Psychologist*, 50: 32–39. doi: 10.1111/ap.12088
- Juliet Richters, Dennis Altman, Paul B. Badcock, Anthony M. A. Smith, Richard O. de Visser, Andrew E. Grulich, Chris Rissel and Judy M. Simpson (2014) Sexual identity, sexual attraction and sexual experience: the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships, *Sexual Health*, 2014, 11, 451–460
- Kenneth J. Zucker & Anne A. Lawrence (2009) Epidemiology of Gender Identity Disorder: Recommendations for the Standards of Care of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 11:1, 8-18, DOI: 10.1080/15532730902799946