

# Gender

# Terminology



**Transgender:** mainstream word. People with a gender identity or gender expression that does not conform to their assigned birth sex.

**Cisgender:** opposite of transgender. When you feel there is a match between your assigned sex and the gender you feel yourself to be. You identify with what is written on your birth certificate.

**The Gender Binary:** the erroneous idea that humans have only 2 genders and that you must be one or the other.



**Heteronormativity:** the erroneous idea that there are 2 genders, which are oriented towards each other.

Gender is only a **social construct**.

*These concepts do not use biological sex as a reference point, but how society identifies us.*

# Terminology

- **Sex:** biological foundation & physiological expression
- **Gender:** cultural expression thereof
  - **Psychological:** experience of being male/female
  - **Social:** civil designation and designated roles
- **Aim:** to *integrate sex and gender*.
- **Sexual Identity:** factors of your own sex and differences from other sex, biological & psychological
- **Gender Identity:** psycho-social & cultural factors/roles in society
- **Sexual Orientation:** hetero, homo, bi, etc. Sexual preference that is established in adolescence during which brain development is completed. It can have a biological basis but is also shaped by other factors, eg education, culture, personal experience
- **Sexual behaviour:** one's chosen way of behaving with respect to sex. There is a very wide range of ways to express one's sexuality (not all of which are healthy).

# List of Facebook Genders

- Agender
- Androgyne
- Androgynous
- Bigender
- Cis
- Cisgender
- Cis Female
- Cis Male
- Cis Man
- Cis Woman
- Cisgender Female
- Cisgender Male
- Cisgender Man
- Cisgender Woman
- Female to Male
- FTM
- Gender Fluid
- Gender Nonconforming
- Gender Questioning
- Gender Variant
- Genderqueer
- Intersex
- Male to Female
- MTF
- Neither
- Neutrois
- Non-binary
- Other
- Pangender
- Trans
- Trans\*
- Trans Female
- Trans\* Female
- Trans Male
- Trans\* Male
- Trans Man
- Trans\* Man
- Trans Person
- Trans\* Person
- Trans Woman
- Trans\* Woman
- Transfeminine
- Transgender
- Transgender Female
- Transgender Male
- Transgender Man
- Transgender Person
- Transgender Woman
- Transmasculine
- Transsexual
- Transsexual Female
- Transsexual Male
- Transsexual Man
- Transsexual Person
- Transsexual Woman
- Two-Spirit

# Why does it matter?

- United Nations, Universities, safe schools, preschools & child-care.
  - Reshaping views on gender reshape ways we view human life and interpersonal relationships.
- \*
- Terms like he/she, his/hers, etc should be avoided.  
Preferred terms = they, ze
  - You should not ask whether someone had a boy or a girl because you are imposing gender assumptions on the child.
  - Ambiguous language makes ethical assumptions about gender that sound reasonable. Aim to reconstruct society.

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Includes topics like chest-binding, surgery, how to hide your online searches from your parents.

# Safe Schools



- Safe Schools Coalition Australia provides a range of resources to help school staff create safer and more inclusive environments for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, school staff and families. Resources include whole school guides for more inclusive policies and practices, posters with anti-bullying messages and an age appropriate teaching and learning resource for use by qualified school staff. Principals and teachers make their own professional judgement on how to use these resources in a school setting.

# Celebrity & Popular Culture



Caitlyn Jenner (I Am Cait) & Laverne Cox (OITNB)



# Fashion

## Jenna (formerly Walter) Talackova

- Transgender model & TV personality.
- Launched legal battle to compete in Miss Universe Canada 2012



## Andreja Pejic

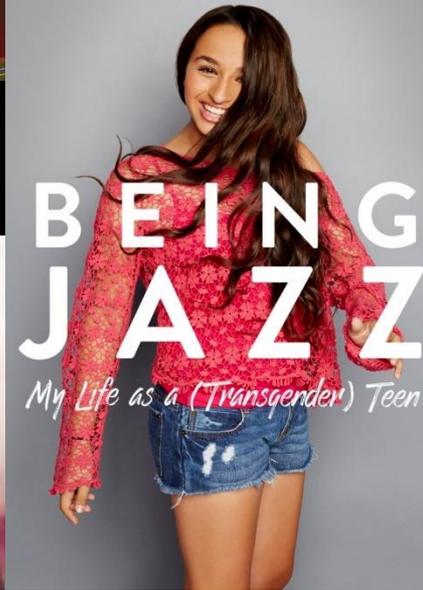
- Before completing her transition into womanhood in late 2013 Pejic was known as the first completely androgynous supermodel. Today she is the most recognisable transgender model in the world. Initially modelled both masculine and feminine clothing. In the Paris fashion shows of January 2011, Pejic walked both the men's and women's shows for Jean-Paul Gaultier.
- Signed a deal to be the face of a beauty brand, Pejic is joining the ranks of Lea T as the face of Redken and Jazz Jennings as the face of Clean & Clear.

# Jazz Jennings

**Jazz Jennings** (born October 6, 2000) is an American YouTube personality, I Am Jazz, spokesmodel, television personality and LGBTQ rights activist. Jennings, a transgender teenage girl, is notable for being one of the youngest publicly documented people to be identified as transgender, and for being the youngest person to become a national transgender figure.

Jennings stated that she is pansexual, and that she loves people "for their personality", regardless of their sexual orientation or gender status. In 2013, Jennings publicly discussed her wish of becoming a mother in the future.

JAZZ JENNINGS



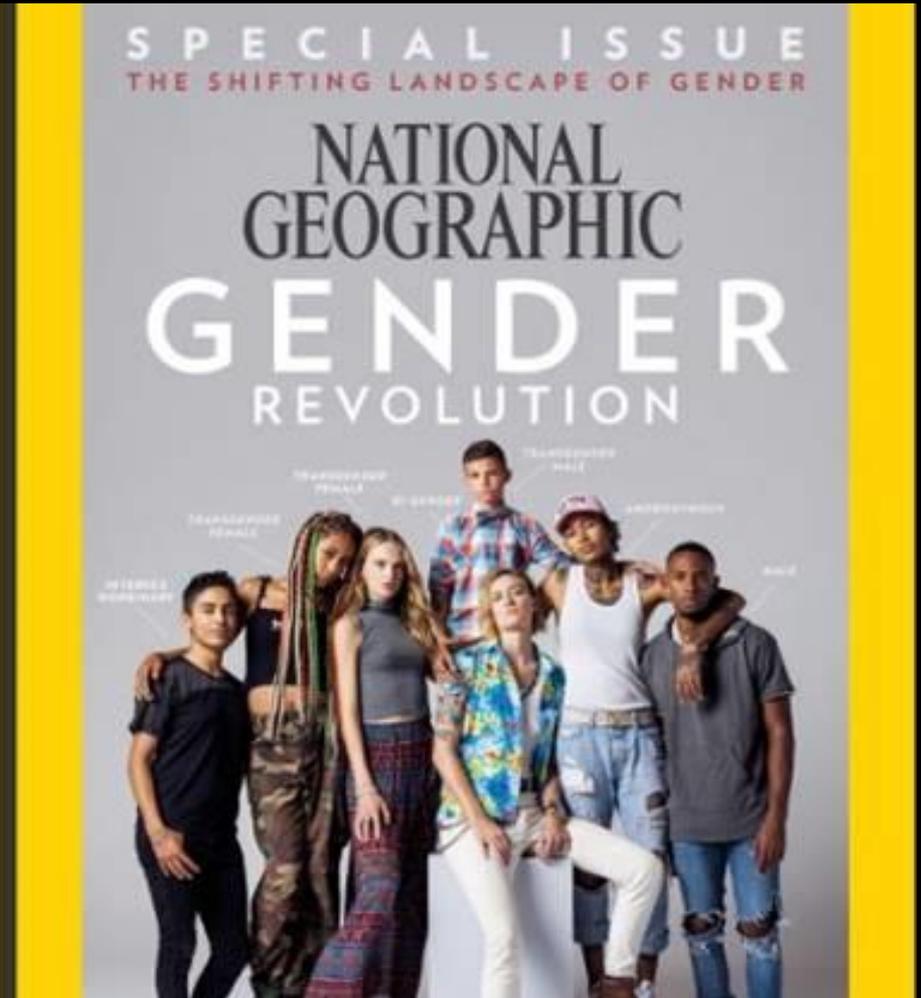
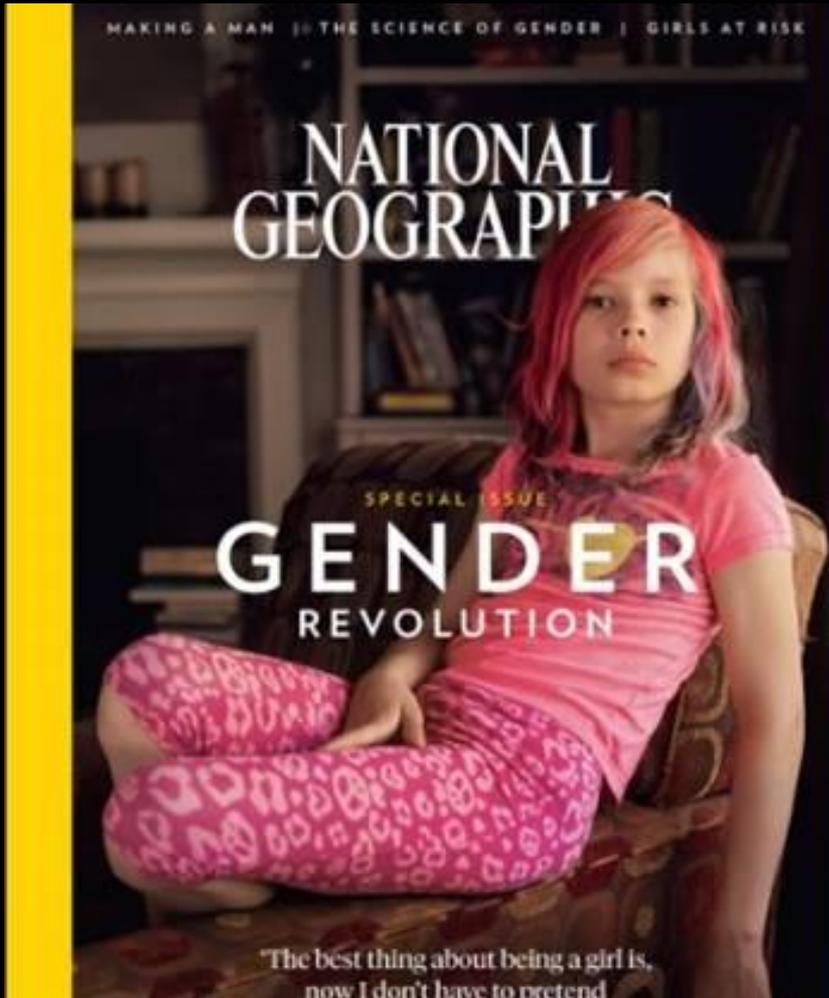
The story of a Los Angeles family whose elderly father comes out as transgender, transitioning from Mort into Maura (and from Poppa into Moppa).

Soloway's world is aggressively specific: Jewy, screwy, L.A., upper middle class, not so much queer-friendly as queer-saturated.

# Transparent



# National Geographic, Jan 2017



# The Wachowski siblings – Andy & Larry/ Lana & Lily

## THE MATRIX



NEW YORK TIMES #1 BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

RICK RIORDAN

# MAGNUS CHASE

and the GODS of ASGARD



THE HAMMER OF THOR

NEW YORK TIMES #1 BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

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THE HAMMER



# DEEP RUN



Home

Executive produced by LGBTQ supporter *Susan Sarandon* and shot by first-time filmmaker Hillevi Loven, **DEEP RUN** is a powerful verité portrait of trans life in rural North Carolina. Exiled by her family and rejected by an ex, 17-year-old Spazz has no one to lean on for support. But when Spazz falls in love again and summons up the courage to become Cole, a strong-willed trans man, his candid humor and steadfast, all-inclusive Christian beliefs counter the bigotry he experiences daily. This intimate documentary reveals rebirth and courage within America's deeply conservative Bible Belt.

# About Ray

- The single mother, the lesbian grandmother, and the trans teen.
- Copped criticism from within the trans community.
- “In short, *About Ray* is another self-congratulatory film made for and by cis people about how great they are for allowing other people to exist ... No, **middle class white cisgender** lady. You do not get to take credit for “starting a conversation” about an entire group of people that you do not identify with.”
- Evan Read Armstrong, <http://bust.com/movies/14753-about-ray-gets-trans-stories-wrong-movie-review.html>

NAOMI WATTS  
ELLE FANNING  
and  
SUSAN SARANDON

A family in transition



# Theoretical Context; Gender theory



- Dialogue with feminist theory
- Framework: Oppression & resistance
- Dualist – “conceptions of the self & its relation to the sexed body & gender”.
- **Queer:** a political and theoretical umbrella term generally indicating opposition to identity-based categories, with a strong antipathy for “heteronormativity”
- **Queer Theory:** theoretical work typically informed by Foucault and Derrida, that aims to study and “deconstruct” heteronormative ideology.

# Feminist ideology

- No tie between gender & a particular type of body. Separated gender from sex/biology/physiology.
- There are no differences between men & women apart from physiologically.
- *You are not born a woman, they make you a woman'.*  
(Simone de Beauvoir)
- Masculinity/femininity are social constructs manufactured by culture, assigning roles and stereotypes.
- Marriage, maternity are socially constructed roles that enslave women.

# Feminism

- Roots in Simone de Beauviour (1949) – *The Second Sex*
- Betty Frieden (1963) – *The Feminine Mystique*  
American women are enslaved by domesticity.  
Family is a ‘*comfortable concentration camp*’
- Germaine Greer (1970) – *The Female Eunuch*  
‘...*slaves is not too melodramatic a description...*’

*THIS WAVE OF FEMINISM IS BASED ON AN INCORRECT ANTHROPOLOGY* – oppression & resistance, liberation from men- absolute freedom, sexual liberation. Marriage & family as seen as social constructs designed to oppress women. Women can't really be free until they are destroyed.

# Gender Ideology



*'We all experience some kind of relationship with our bodies and our selves, whatever that relationship may be'.*

## Gender

- the binary is a social construct
- It does not relate to biological/genetic sex.
- Masculine/feminine no longer the only options.
- It can be fluid or change over time
- It is not about sexual orientation
- You do not need to reflect your gender in your body, for instance in surgery/ dress
- Separation of sexuality, maternity, paternity & procreation.
- Institutions of marriage & family need to go.
- Many feminists concerned that women are called exclusionary when they call themselves women or promote their own interests as women – only trans women can use the term in a non-exclusionary way. (TERF – trans-exclusive radical feminist) – colleges, safety, discrimination, sexism, harassment, bathrooms, 'reproductive health', etc. Trans folk are forcing women to redefine themselves.

# Recently in the news:

- Channing Tatum's letter to baby daughter
- Gender-neutral movie awards – Emma Watson
- Man gives birth
- Mother's Day & Father's Day
- Abortion providers removing 'women' from their names as excluding trans people who also seek these services

“The *Empire Strikes Back*: A (post)transsexual manifesto”,  
Sandy Stone, 1991.

- Founding essay on transgender studies

### Transgender Paradigm: 3 main features:

- Rise of trans voice against history of scholarly objectification.
- Transsexuals are a kind of “oppressed minority”
- Worries that some transsexuals are taking up and replicating sexist stereotypes, perpetuating the gender binary.

### Transgender paradigm: three main features

- 1) the recognition of gender-based oppression, usually targeting trans people, as distinct from and non-reducible to sexist oppression;
- 2) the positioning of trans people as problematically situated with respect to the binary categories *man* and *woman*; and
- 3) the endorsement of a politics of visibility.

# Critiques of the term 'Cisgender'

- Not everyone in the LGBTI community accepts the term 'cisgender'.
- Feminists: don't like the implied idea that cisgender women are privileged in relation to transgender women who were born male. Transgender women don't need to worry about 'reproductive rights', etc. Germaine Greer.
- Some people in the gay community see 'cisgender' as a slur as it labels them as elitist & conformist, as not being queer enough. They have a non-conforming sexual orientation but identify the gender which they were assigned at birth.
- Some people think that cisgender validates the notion that there are only two genders – the gender binary.

# The Relationship between sex and gender

- **Sex:** biological foundation
- **Gender:** cultural expression thereof
- Sex & gender are not identical, but they are not entirely separate either.
- Human Person: body & soul, one person.
- Integration of the body, spirit, psychological, social dimensions

# How do you form your identity as a man or woman?

- Three aspects aim to have harmoniously interconnected:
- **Biological sex** (X/Y – chromosomes, hormones, organs, biological basis does influence the whole organism – eg differences between the male and female brain (structural & functional))
- **Psychological sex** The lived experience of being male or female. Consciousness of belonging to a determined sex. Usually formed when we are small children & usually coincides with biological sex. Can be deeply affected by education & environment.
- **Sociological Sex** civil designation – the sex assigned to you at birth. It expresses how a person is perceived by others. Generally this is understood to be the result of cultural/historical processes because it refers to the functions and roles, stereotypes that are designated or assigned to different groups or persons in each society.
- **Psychological & Sociological sex together make up gender.**

# The Human Being: Corporeal & Spiritual (body & soul)

The body is not a container for the mind.  
The body is 'animated'.  
We are corporeo-spiritual.  
The body discloses the person



Youtube Clip: What College Kids  
Really Think: Identity  
(Washington Family Institute)

# Integrating

- Integrating all three aspects into the wider process of the formation of your own identity.
- Generally as you grow up you acquire a sexual identity and also a gender identity. When they are integrated well both dimensions correspond and complement each other.
  - *God has created human beings as male & female equal in personal dignity, & has called them to a vocation of love & of communion. Everyone should accept his or her identity as male or female, recognising its importance for the whole of the person, its specificity & complementarity. CCC, 487. (CCC 2331-6, 2392-3)*

# God the Creator & the marriage of Adam & Eve

- *And God created man to his own image: to the image of God he created him: male & female he created them (Gen 1:27).*
- The human family is an icon of the Divine Family
- Human families image the Trinity
- The love of the Father & Son becomes a Third Person
- John Paul II: Theology of the Body



# Intersex individuals

- There are medical anomalies that occur in the development of the embryo (eg hermaphrodites).
- This does not mean that there are more than two sexes.
- When you have an abnormal development of biological sex there are difficulties in the development of psychological sex. Don't use rare medical conditions to deconstruct the foundations of marriage, family, etc.

# Pope Benedict

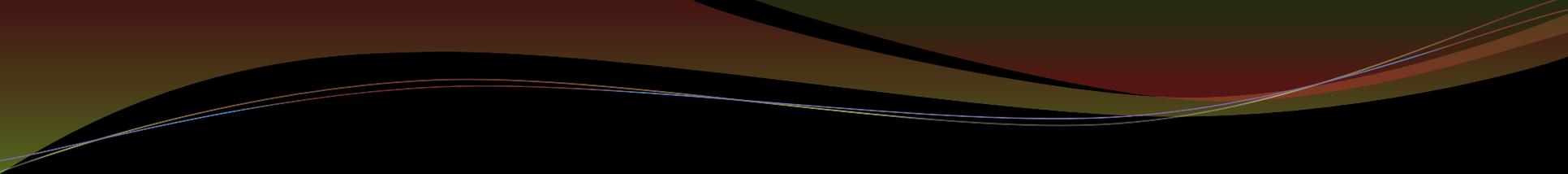


- “In his last Christmas address to the Roman Curia on 21 December 2012, Benedict XVI stated that today the very idea of human nature is in crisis, and that this crisis is based on gender “as a new philosophy of sexuality”. “The very notion of being – of what being human really means – is being called into question”, noting that sexual complementarity, and one’s sex as a given, “is what is now disputed”. He added that in the relativist ideology of gender, “man and woman as created realities, as the nature of the human being, no longer exist. Man calls his nature into question, “which also calls into question the nature of the family”. ... Benedict said that ‘the defence of the family is about man himself. And it becomes clear that when God is denied, human dignity also disappears. Whoever defends God is defending man.’ (EWTN, 6 Feb 2014)
- Pope Francis: “  
Speaking with Pope Benedict, who is well and has clear thinking, he said to me: “Holiness, this is the time of the sin against God the Creator!” He is intelligent! God created man and woman; God created the world thus and thus and thus ... And we are doing the opposite.... We must think about what Pope Benedict said: It’s the time of the sin against God the Creator!”

# Pope Francis



- “I ask myself, if the so-called gender theory is not, at the same time, an *expression of frustration and resignation*, which seeks to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it.” (General Audience, 15 April, 2015)
- “The complementarity of man and woman, summit of divine creation, is being questioned by the so-called gender ideology, in the name of a more free and just society. The differences between man and woman are not for opposition or subordination, but for communion and generation, always in the ‘image and likeness’ of God.” (Address to Puerto Rican Bishops, 8 June 2015)



*Amoris Laetitia*

Yet another challenge is posed by the various forms of an ideology of gender *that “denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family.*

This ideology leads to educational programmes and legislative enactments that promote a personal identity and emotional intimacy *radically separated* from the biological difference between male and female.

Consequently, human identity becomes the choice of the individual, one which can also change over time”. It is a source of concern that some ideologies of this sort, which seek to respond to what are at times understandable aspirations, manage to assert themselves as absolute and unquestionable, even dictating how children should be raised.

It needs to be emphasized that *“biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated”*.

On the other hand, “the technological revolution in the field of human procreation has introduced the ability to manipulate the reproductive act, *making it independent of the sexual relationship between a man and a woman.* In this way, human life and parenthood have become modular and separable realities, subject mainly to the wishes of individuals or couples”.

It is one thing to be *understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life*, and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality. Let us not fall into the sin of trying to replace the Creator. We are creatures, and not omnipotent. Creation is prior to us and must be received as a gift. At the same time, we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created.

# Approaches to difference

## Opposition/Subordination

- Remove difference
- Oppose power with power

## Communion/Generation

- Complementarity
- Enhance dignity
- Mutual self-giving

# Different approaches to gender

- Reshaping views on gender reshapes ways we view human life and interpersonal relationships.
- **Paths to equality between men and women:**
  - Remove difference = sameness
  - Difference with complementarity and equal dignity
- **Paths to fulfillment:**
  - Desire for Self-sufficiency
  - Disposition towards the other