

Identities Chart - The “S/I/E/O” Model

Biological Sex	Gender Identity	Gender Expression	Sexual Orientation
Female	Woman	Feminine	Heterosexual
Male	Man	Masculine	Gay
Intersex / DSD	Trans	Androgynous	Lesbian
	Transgender	AG / Aggressive	Bisexual
	Transsexual	Femme Queen	Asexual
	Genderqueer		Queer
	Two- Spirit		Same Gender Loving

All people have a biological sex, a gender identity, a gender expression, and a sexual orientation.

- For most people, their biological sex will “match” their gender identity and their gender expression and their orientation will be heterosexual.
- For some people, their biological sex will “match” their gender identity and their gender expression, and their orientation is not heterosexual.
- For a few people, their biological sex and gender identity do not “match.” They express, or want to express, their gender according to their gender identity, not their biological sex. Their sexual orientation label will depend on personal choice of labels.

A person’s gender identity does not indicate their sexual orientation.

- For example, a biological man can identify as a woman, and also identify as a heterosexual, which means that she is attracted to masculine gender expressions.
- A biologically intersex person may identify as a woman, and identify as a lesbian which means that she is attracted to feminine or lesbian gender expressions.

DEFINITIONS SHEET

AG/ Aggressive – A term used to describe a female-bodied and identified person who prefers presenting as masculine. This term is most commonly used in urban communities of color.

Asexual – Person who is not sexually attracted to anyone or does not have a sexual orientation. Asexual people may still experience emotional and psychological attractions to people, and can have fulfilling romantic relationships.

Biological Sex - A person’s combination of chromosomes, gonads, and hormones.

Bisexual – A person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to males/men and females/women. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

Cisgender – A person whose biological sex is congruent with their gender identity and has not experienced a disconnect between their gender identity and biological sex.

Femme Queen – A term used to describe someone who is male bodied, but identifies as and expresses feminine gender. Primarily used in urban communities, particularly in communities of color and the New York City ballroom communities.

Gay – 1. Term used in some cultural settings to represent males who are attracted to males in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Not all men who engage in “homosexual behavior” identify as gay, and as such this label should be used with caution. 2. Term used to refer to the LGBTQI community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

Gender Binary – The idea that there are only two genders – male/female or man/woman and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Gender Expression - The way that a person communicates gender identity or biological sex to others, i.e., through gender cues such as hair length, facial hair, make-up, dress style, etc.

Gender Identity - A person’s internal, psychological sense of who they are as a gendered being.

Genderqueer – A person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. This identity is usually related to or in reaction to the social construction of gender, gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.

Heteronormative – The societal expectation that a person is, or should be, heterosexual. Also includes social expectations to be monogamous, get married, have children, etc.

Intersex Person— Label used to describe person whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, and/or genitals differs from one of the two expected patterns of male or female. Up to 1 in 1,000 births may be considered to be intersex, meaning that the child's combination of chromosomes, gonads or hormones present in a way that is not strictly male or female. Note: This term replaces “hermaphrodite” which is frequently considered offensive.

Lesbian – Label used to describe female-identified people attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other female-identified people. The term lesbian is derived from the name of the Greek island of Lesbos and as such is sometimes considered a Eurocentric category that does not necessarily represent the identities of African-Americans and other non-European ethnic groups. This being said, individual female-identified people from diverse ethnic groups, including African-Americans, embrace the term ‘lesbian’ as an identity label

Medical Transition – This label is primarily used to refer to the medical process person undergoes when physiologically changing their bodily appearance through the use of hormones and a series of surgeries to be more closely aligned with their gender identity.

Queer – **1.** An umbrella label which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of the not-exclusively- heterosexual-and-monogamous majority. Queer includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transpeople, intersex persons, the radical sex communities, and many other sexually transgressive (underworld) explorers. **2.** This term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label instead of ‘bisexual’ as a way of acknowledging that there are more than two genders to be attracted to, or as a way of stating a non- heterosexual orientation without having to state who they are attracted to.

Same Gender Loving – A label sometimes used by members of the African-American / Black community to express an alternative sexual orientation without relying on terms and symbols of European descent. The term emerged in the early 1990's with the intention of offering Black women who love women and Black men who love men a voice, a way of identifying and being that resonated with the uniqueness of Black culture in life. (Sometimes abbreviated as 'SGL'.)

Sexual Identity: The way that a person describes or labels themselves as a sexual being, usually referring to one's sexual presentation, preference or practices. Examples include 'polyamorous,' 'bear' or 'butch/femme.' Sexual identity labels are most commonly used by people whose sexual practices are considered to be outside of the cultural "norm."

Sexual Orientation: Who a person is emotionally, physically, sexually and/or psychologically attracted to. Common sexual orientations include: heterosexual/straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and queer.

Trans - An abbreviation that is used to refer to people whose biological sex and gender identity are incongruent. This term use allows a person to state a gender diverse identity without having to disclose hormonal or surgical status/intentions (as opposed to transgender and transsexual). This term is also used to refer to the community as a whole.

Transgender – A person whose gender identity is incongruent with their biological sex. Often lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

Transman—An identity label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transpeople to signify that they are men while acknowledging that they were not assigned male at birth. Also referred to as 'transguy(s)' or FTM.

Transsexual – A person whose gender identity is incongruent with their biological sex, and who seeks medical transition to more closely align their physical bodies with their gender identity.

Transwoman - An identity label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transpeople to signify that they are women while acknowledging that they were not assigned female at birth. Also referred to as MTF.

Two-Spirited – An identity label used by Indigenous North Americans to indicate that they embody both a masculine and feminine spirit. Historically this included wearing the clothing and completing the tasks of males and females. May also be used to include native peoples of diverse sexual orientations, and has different nuanced meanings in different native sub-cultures.

Transphobia: The range of negative attitudes and feelings (such as antipathy, contempt, aversion, and irrational fear) towards gender ambiguity, trans identities, and people who are identified or perceived as being trans. Many transpeople also experience homophobia from people who associate their gender expression with homosexuality.

Transprejudice: Active prejudice (negative attitudes, bias, and discrimination) against those who are perceived as being genderqueer, transgender, or transsexual. This can include actions such as name-calling, physical violence, or workplace discrimination.

About the Author: Eli R. Green is a PhD candidate in Human Sexuality Education at Widener University, a college professor, and a consultant helping non-profits, service & medical providers, educators and business increase their transgender cultural competency and inclusion. His SIEO model has been used in college classroom and professional trainings for over ten years, and has helped participants to have a greater understanding of gender and sexual diversity. Eli's dissertation focuses on the efficacy of using Trans 101 education in college classrooms to reduce prejudice against people of transgender experience. To speak with Eli about his work, teaching or consulting services, please contact him at: elirgreen@gmail.com