

Gender Dysphoria from a Non-binary Perspective

Alley Stoughton

Kansas State University

Beyond the Sex/Gender Binaries

- I want to talk about gender dysphoria without presupposing that there are only two sexes/genders.

Beyond the Sex/Gender Binaries

- I want to talk about gender dysphoria without presupposing that there are only two sexes/genders.
- So I'll try to define terms more inclusively than in the American Psychiatric Association's *DSM-IV-TR*, the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Text Revision, and other standard sources.

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain.
Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),
- gonads (ovaries, testes, one each, combination),

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),
- gonads (ovaries, testes, one each, combination),
- internal and external genitalia (many variations),

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),
- gonads (ovaries, testes, one each, combination),
- internal and external genitalia (many variations),
- sex hormonal systems (e.g., Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)),

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),
- gonads (ovaries, testes, one each, combination),
- internal and external genitalia (many variations),
- sex hormonal systems (e.g., Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)),
- secondary sex characteristics

Sex

DSM-IV: *Sex* is

a person's biological status as male, female or uncertain. Depending on the circumstances, this determination may be based on the appearance of the external genitalia or on karyotyping.

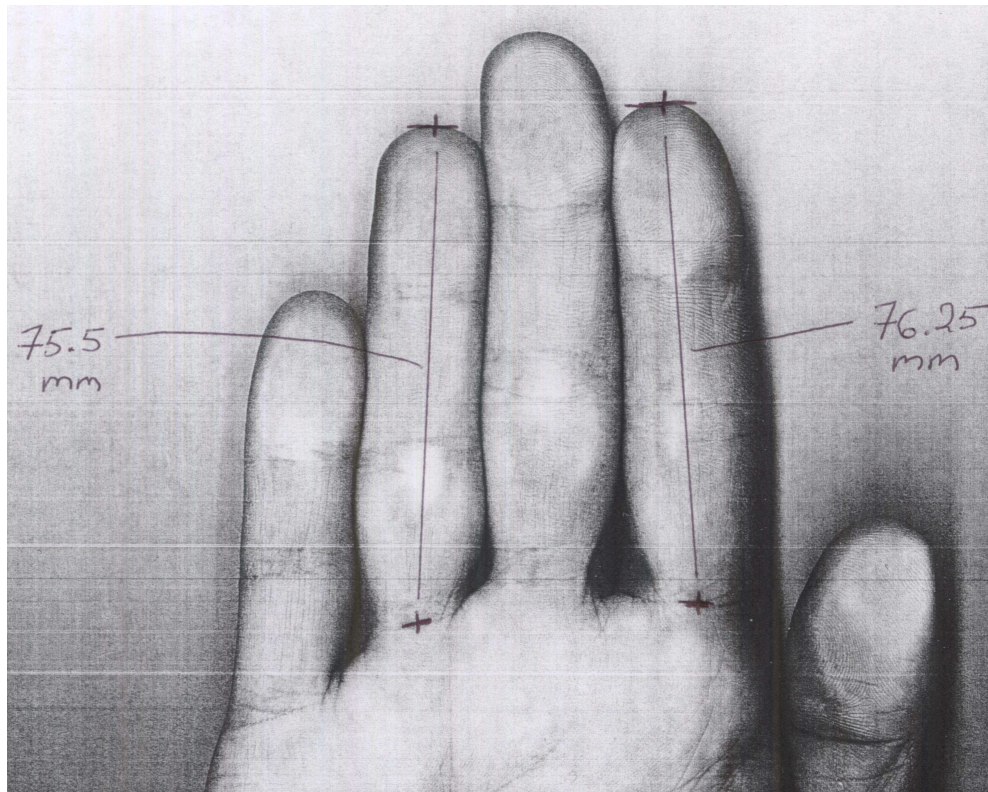
Inclusive: A *sex* is

the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes (XX, XY, XO, XXX, XXY, XYY, etc.),
- gonads (ovaries, testes, one each, combination),
- internal and external genitalia (many variations),
- sex hormonal systems (e.g., Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)),
- secondary sex characteristics, and
- brain structure as influenced by prenatal sex hormones.

Finger-length Ratios

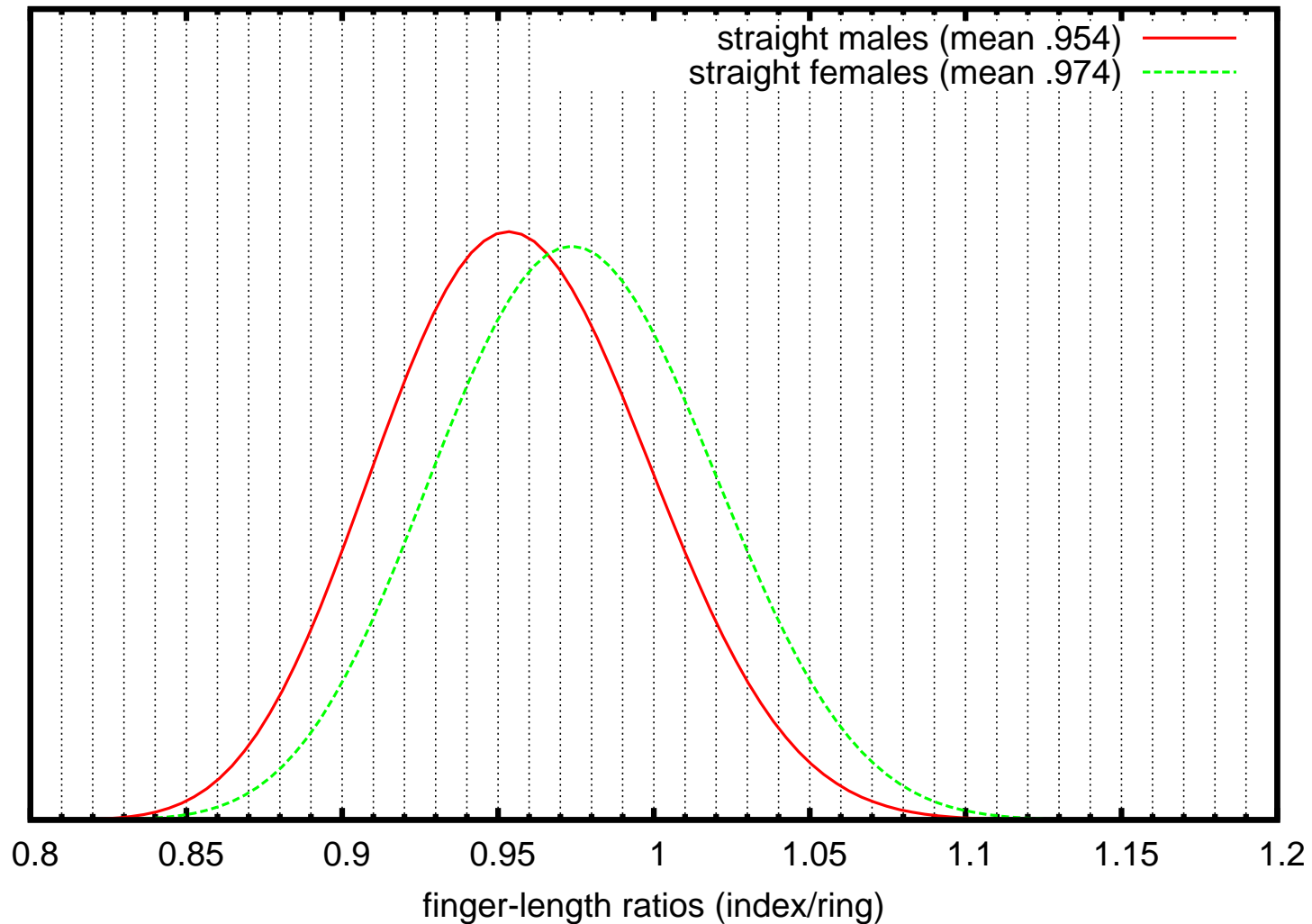
A *finger-length* ratio is computed by dividing the length (tip to bottom of crease) of the index finger by the length of the ring finger.



In this example, we get $76.25/75.5 = 1.01$, which is significantly above the straight female average of 0.974 .

Finger-length Ratio Distributions

Finger-length ratios are positively correlated with prenatal estrogen/testosterone ratios.



Sex Diversity

- For most (80–90%) people, sex chromosomes determine the rest of the gender aggregate, giving us the male and female sexes.

Sex Diversity

- For most (80–90%) people, sex chromosomes determine the rest of the gender aggregate, giving us the male and female sexes.
- Fausto-Sterling: 1.7% of population are intersexuals.

Sex Diversity

- For most (80–90%) people, sex chromosomes determine the rest of the gender aggregate, giving us the male and female sexes.
- Fausto-Sterling: 1.7% of population are intersexuals.
- Including brain sex: 10-20% of population are intersexuals.

Sex Diversity

- For most (80–90%) people, sex chromosomes determine the rest of the gender aggregate, giving us the male and female sexes.
- Fausto-Sterling: 1.7% of population are intersexuals.
- Including brain sex: 10-20% of population are intersexuals.
- Doctors are charged with assigning a binary sex to each baby.

Sex Diversity

- For most (80–90%) people, sex chromosomes determine the rest of the gender aggregate, giving us the male and female sexes.
- Fausto-Sterling: 1.7% of population are intersexuals.
- Including brain sex: 10-20% of population are intersexuals.
- Doctors are charged with assigning a binary sex to each baby.
- Most of us are blind to sex diversity.

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,
- conversational style,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,
- conversational style,
- body language,

Gender

DSM-IV: *Gender* is unspecified.

Merriam-Webster: *Gender* is

the behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex.

Inclusive: A *gender* is

an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,
- conversational style,
- body language,
- dress style, etc.

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).
- All are culturally mediated (e.g, what counts as aggression?).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).
- All are culturally mediated (e.g, what counts as aggression?).
- List of attributes is culturally determined (e.g., is affinity for certain colors included?).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).
- All are culturally mediated (e.g, what counts as aggression?).
- List of attributes is culturally determined (e.g., is affinity for certain colors included?).
- Male and female bell curves for most traits almost completely overlap.

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).
- All are culturally mediated (e.g, what counts as aggression?).
- List of attributes is culturally determined (e.g., is affinity for certain colors included?).
- Male and female bell curves for most traits almost completely overlap.
- There are many genders—not even a gender continuum (a person can be nurturing and aggressive, or non-nurturing and non-aggressive, etc.).

Gender Diversity

- Some gender attributes are influenced by sex (e.g., risk aversion).
- Some are mostly a matter of conditioning (e.g., body language).
- Some are pure cultural constructions (e.g., wearing skirts).
- All are culturally mediated (e.g, what counts as aggression?).
- List of attributes is culturally determined (e.g., is affinity for certain colors included?).
- Male and female bell curves for most traits almost completely overlap.
- There are many genders—not even a gender continuum (a person can be nurturing and aggressive, or non-nurturing and non-aggressive, etc.).
- Thus gender is multi-dimensional.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.
- We are brought up in the gender brand of our assigned sex.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.
- We are brought up in the gender brand of our assigned sex.
- Most people find comfort from belonging to their brand.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.
- We are brought up in the gender brand of our assigned sex.
- Most people find comfort from belonging to their brand.
- We are socialized to police brand boundaries.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.
- We are brought up in the gender brand of our assigned sex.
- Most people find comfort from belonging to their brand.
- We are socialized to police brand boundaries.
- Branding is both positive and negative.

Gender Branding

- It seems there are men and women with identical gender aggregates.
- So “male” and “female” aren’t really genders, but sex-linked *labels* or *brands* masquerading as genders.
- We are brought up in the gender brand of our assigned sex.
- Most people find comfort from belonging to their brand.
- We are socialized to police brand boundaries.
- Branding is both positive and negative.
- Branding has a major impact on our lives.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

- Role models are needed to understand how we compare with others in terms of gender attributes.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

- Role models are needed to understand how we compare with others in terms of gender attributes.
- So developing a gender identity is a social process, even though gender is partly determined by sex.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

- Role models are needed to understand how we compare with others in terms of gender attributes.
- So developing a gender identity is a social process, even though gender is partly determined by sex.
- But with gender branding, even more socialization is needed.

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

- Role models are needed to understand how we compare with others in terms of gender attributes.
- So developing a gender identity is a social process, even though gender is partly determined by sex.
- But with gender branding, even more socialization is needed.
- If brought up by aliens, how could a baby have a sense of being “male” or “female”?

Gender Identity

DSM-IV: *Gender identity* is

a person's inner conviction of being male or female.

Inclusive: A *gender identity* is

the gender a person believes himself to have.

- Role models are needed to understand how we compare with others in terms of gender attributes.
- So developing a gender identity is a social process, even though gender is partly determined by sex.
- But with gender branding, even more socialization is needed.
- If brought up by aliens, how could a baby have a sense of being “male” or “female”?
- As children, we intuit/learn our gender identities by comparing ourselves with others, consciously or unconsciously.

Gender Attribution

Gender attribution is

the process by which we experience someone and reach an opinion of what hir gender is.

Gender Attribution

Gender attribution is

the process by which we experience someone and reach an opinion of what hir gender is.

- Currently, it's mostly a matter of guessing a person's binary sex, and mapping this to its gender brand.

Gender Attribution

Gender attribution is

the process by which we experience someone and reach an opinion of what hir gender is.

- Currently, it's mostly a matter of guessing a person's binary sex, and mapping this to its gender brand.
- But it could be more open-ended process of paying attention to someone, more fully understanding who they are, what their gender attributes are.

Gender Role

DSM-IV: *Gender role* is

attitudes, patterns of behavior, and personality attributes defined by the culture in which the person lives as stereotypically “masculine” or “feminine” social roles.

Gender Role

DSM-IV: *Gender role* is

attitudes, patterns of behavior, and personality attributes defined by the culture in which the person lives as stereotypically “masculine” or “feminine” social roles.

Inclusive: A *gender role* is

the behaviors and attitudes expected by a society of someone with a given gender.

Gender Role

DSM-IV: *Gender role* is

attitudes, patterns of behavior, and personality attributes defined by the culture in which the person lives as stereotypically “masculine” or “feminine” social roles.

Inclusive: A *gender role* is

the behaviors and attitudes expected by a society of someone with a given gender.

- Rigid gender roles are only possible when there are a small number of branded genders.

Gender Role

DSM-IV: *Gender role* is

attitudes, patterns of behavior, and personality attributes defined by the culture in which the person lives as stereotypically “masculine” or “feminine” social roles.

Inclusive: A *gender role* is

the behaviors and attitudes expected by a society of someone with a given gender.

- Rigid gender roles are only possible when there are a small number of branded genders.
- If we acknowledged gender complexity, it would be much harder to assign fixed gender roles.

Gender Role

DSM-IV: *Gender role* is

attitudes, patterns of behavior, and personality attributes defined by the culture in which the person lives as stereotypically “masculine” or “feminine” social roles.

Inclusive: A *gender role* is

the behaviors and attitudes expected by a society of someone with a given gender.

- Rigid gender roles are only possible when there are a small number of branded genders.
- If we acknowledged gender complexity, it would be much harder to assign fixed gender roles.
- A person’s actual *gender expression*—the way sie expresses hir gender—may be inconsistent with the gender role assigned to hir.

Gender Dysphoria

DSM-IV: *Gender dysphoria* is

a persistent aversion toward some of all of those physical characteristics or social roles that connote one's own biological sex.

Gender Dysphoria

DSM-IV: *Gender dysphoria* is

a persistent aversion toward some of all of those physical characteristics or social roles that connote one's own biological sex.

Inclusive: *Gender dysphoria* is

discomfort stemming from an actual or perceived conflict between a person's

Gender Dysphoria

DSM-IV: *Gender dysphoria* is

a persistent aversion toward some of all of those physical characteristics or social roles that connote one's own biological sex.

Inclusive: *Gender dysphoria* is

discomfort stemming from an actual or perceived conflict between a person's

- gender identity,

Gender Dysphoria

DSM-IV: *Gender dysphoria* is

a persistent aversion toward some of all of those physical characteristics or social roles that connote one's own biological sex.

Inclusive: *Gender dysphoria* is

discomfort stemming from an actual or perceived conflict between a person's

- gender identity,
- (real/attributed) gender, and

Gender Dysphoria

DSM-IV: *Gender dysphoria* is

a persistent aversion toward some of all of those physical characteristics or social roles that connote one's own biological sex.

Inclusive: *Gender dysphoria* is

discomfort stemming from an actual or perceived conflict between a person's

- gender identity,
- (real/attributed) gender, and
- (real/attributed/assigned) sex.

Transsexualism

DSM-IV: *Transsexualism* is

severe gender dysphoria, coupled with a persistent desire for the physical characteristics and social roles that connote the opposite biological sex.

Transsexualism

DSM-IV: *Transsexualism* is

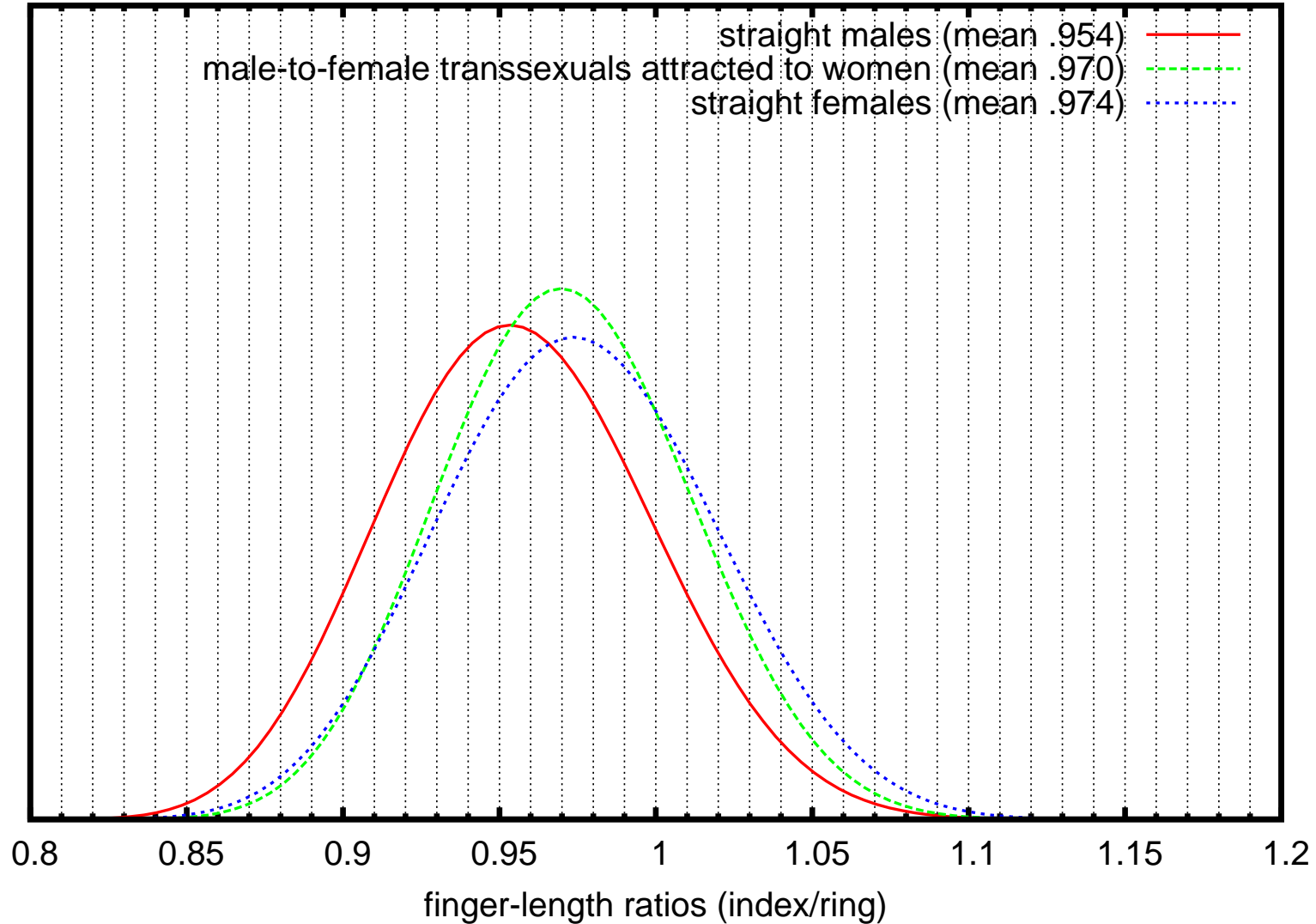
severe gender dysphoria, coupled with a persistent desire for the physical characteristics and social roles that connote the opposite biological sex.

Inclusive: *Transsexualism* is

gender dysphoria, coupled with a desire/plan to make physical and/or social changes to ameliorate that dysphoria.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: Mild Intersexuality

Transsexualism may be prenatally determined to some extent:



Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How Others See Us

- Even with non-branded gender, we can see ourselves differently from how others see us, or from how we really are.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How Others See Us

- Even with non-branded gender, we can see ourselves differently from how others see us, or from how we really are.
- But in our branded system, people may attribute gender brands to us that neglect or ignore our actual gender aggregates, using assumed binary sex to infer a gender brand.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How Others See Us

- Even with non-branded gender, we can see ourselves differently from how others see us, or from how we really are.
- But in our branded system, people may attribute gender brands to us that neglect or ignore our actual gender aggregates, using assumed binary sex to infer a gender brand.
- We may be uncomfortable with our own bodies because we think others will only see and relate to us as we wish if our bodies conform to their brand-based expectations, in which sexes and genders must go together.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How We See Ourselves

- We can internalize the culture's stereotype that certain types of bodies must go with certain gender brands, feel alienation because our bodies don't match our gender identities, and end up hating our bodies as a result.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How We See Ourselves

- We can internalize the culture's stereotype that certain types of bodies must go with certain gender brands, feel alienation because our bodies don't match our gender identities, and end up hating our bodies as a result.
- This is like other body image problems, can cause intense emotional pain, and has a purely social cause.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How We See Ourselves

- We can internalize the culture's stereotype that certain types of bodies must go with certain gender brands, feel alienation because our bodies don't match our gender identities, and end up hating our bodies as a result.
- This is like other body image problems, can cause intense emotional pain, and has a purely social cause.
- A baby brought up by aliens wouldn't develop a feeling of having the "wrong" genitals, with no access to human role models.

Origins of Gender Dysphoria: How We See Ourselves

- We can internalize the culture's stereotype that certain types of bodies must go with certain gender brands, feel alienation because our bodies don't match our gender identities, and end up hating our bodies as a result.
- This is like other body image problems, can cause intense emotional pain, and has a purely social cause.
- A baby brought up by aliens wouldn't develop a feeling of having the "wrong" genitals, with no access to human role models.
- Of course, most transsexuals feel the need to make at least some bodily changes, in order to feel good about their bodies.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Recognizing Gender Diversity

- Currently, gender attribution is largely sex attribution, and sex attribution is based on a few external factors.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Recognizing Gender Diversity

- Currently, gender attribution is largely sex attribution, and sex attribution is based on a few external factors.
- But, if 10-20% of the population were known to have sexes other than male/female, and if we knew that a person's sex couldn't be reliably determined by a cursory look at hir body, we would have to look deeper to understand a person's gender.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Recognizing Gender Diversity

- Currently, gender attribution is largely sex attribution, and sex attribution is based on a few external factors.
- But, if 10-20% of the population were known to have sexes other than male/female, and if we knew that a person's sex couldn't be reliably determined by a cursory look at hir body, we would have to look deeper to understand a person's gender.
- Recognizing gender diversity would encourage the breakdown of gender branding.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Recognizing Gender Diversity

- Currently, gender attribution is largely sex attribution, and sex attribution is based on a few external factors.
- But, if 10-20% of the population were known to have sexes other than male/female, and if we knew that a person's sex couldn't be reliably determined by a cursory look at hir body, we would have to look deeper to understand a person's gender.
- Recognizing gender diversity would encourage the breakdown of gender branding.
- Having our genders recognized would lessen gender dysphoria.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Transformation

- People can attempt to effect radical physical and behavioral transformations, using hormones, genital surgery, facial surgery, voice work, etc., with the goal of passing as their target sexes, assimilating completely.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Transformation

- People can attempt to effect radical physical and behavioral transformations, using hormones, genital surgery, facial surgery, voice work, etc., with the goal of passing as their target sexes, assimilating completely.
- To a limited extent, these changes alter a person's sex (only some parts of the sex aggregate can currently be changed).

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Transformation

- People can attempt to effect radical physical and behavioral transformations, using hormones, genital surgery, facial surgery, voice work, etc., with the goal of passing as their target sexes, assimilating completely.
- To a limited extent, these changes alter a person's sex (only some parts of the sex aggregate can currently be changed).
- But some people find making such transformations impossible, impractical or undesirable.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.
- Today, a number of people, especially young people who were labeled female at birth, are struggling to maintain this identity.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.
- Today, a number of people, especially young people who were labeled female at birth, are struggling to maintain this identity.
- But succeeding in this is very difficult.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.
- Today, a number of people, especially young people who were labeled female at birth, are struggling to maintain this identity.
- But succeeding in this is very difficult.
- Linguistic problem: pronouns (gendered pronouns put intergenders in boxes).

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.
- Today, a number of people, especially young people who were labeled female at birth, are struggling to maintain this identity.
- But succeeding in this is very difficult.
- Linguistic problem: pronouns (gendered pronouns put intergenders in boxes).
- Logistical problem: public restrooms (going into a restroom brands a person).

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Living Outside the Gender Binary

- It may also be possible to add a new gender brand, “intergender”, giving a home to people who feel they are in the middle in terms of gender.
- Today, a number of people, especially young people who were labeled female at birth, are struggling to maintain this identity.
- But succeeding in this is very difficult.
- Linguistic problem: pronouns (gendered pronouns put intergenders in boxes).
- Logistical problem: public restrooms (going into a restroom brands a person).
- How are we to recognize intergenders, so we can support them?

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Expressing Allegiance to a Gender Brand

- Perhaps gender attribution can become a process of intuiting the gender brand that someone is trying to express, understanding that this brand indicates the person's gender identity and desired gender role, and attempting to view and relate to the person according to that role.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Expressing Allegiance to a Gender Brand

- Perhaps gender attribution can become a process of intuiting the gender brand that someone is trying to express, understanding that this brand indicates the person's gender identity and desired gender role, and attempting to view and relate to the person according to that role.
- How far this can stretch is debatable—if a feminine person with a masculine body uses gender expression to express a female gender identity, could people relate to her appropriately?

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Expressing Allegiance to a Gender Brand

- Perhaps gender attribution can become a process of intuiting the gender brand that someone is trying to express, understanding that this brand indicates the person's gender identity and desired gender role, and attempting to view and relate to the person according to that role.
- How far this can stretch is debatable—if a feminine person with a masculine body uses gender expression to express a female gender identity, could people relate to her appropriately?
- But already some transsexuals who can't or don't want to pass are finding more acceptance in society by expressing their allegiance to a gender brand.

Ameliorating Gender Dysphoria: Expressing Allegiance to a Gender Brand

- Perhaps gender attribution can become a process of intuiting the gender brand that someone is trying to express, understanding that this brand indicates the person's gender identity and desired gender role, and attempting to view and relate to the person according to that role.
- How far this can stretch is debatable—if a feminine person with a masculine body uses gender expression to express a female gender identity, could people relate to her appropriately?
- But already some transsexuals who can't or don't want to pass are finding more acceptance in society by expressing their allegiance to a gender brand.
- Fortunately, many transsexuals and their partners find that genitals and secondary sexual characteristics are far less relevant than how we use and think about them, and than our gender aggregates.