

Gender Identity and Transsexualism: The Basics

- “Sex” and “Gender” are not the same thing.
 - The “sex” of a person is a scientifically “provable” fact. “Sex” is assigned at birth based on biological attributes such as chromosomes, hormone prevalence and, of course, external and internal anatomy.
 - The “gender” of a person, on the other hand, cannot be confirmed by science, biological attributes, or anatomy. “Gender” is a self-assigned, socially-constructed term created in the mid-20th Century, popularized in the 1970s by sociologists, and solidified in feminist theory.
- “Gender Identity” is a term used to describe what “sex” a person chooses to identify with and function/behave/dress as. Gender identity is a fluid designation that can change whenever the person changes his mind.
- “Transgender” is a “Gender Identity” term that defines a person of one biological sex who identifies as a member of the opposite biological sex.

Research:

A major 2016 report, *“Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences,”* written by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine’s Dr. Lawrence S. Mayer, M.B., M.S., Ph.D., an epidemiologist trained in psychiatry, and Dr. Paul R. McHugh, M.D., arguably the most important American psychiatrist of the last half-century, summarized findings from the biological, psychological and social science research as follows:

- *The understanding of sexual orientation as an innate, biologically fixed property of human beings—the idea that people are “born that way”—is not supported by scientific evidence.*
- *Longitudinal studies of adolescents suggest that sexual orientation may be quite fluid over the life course for some people, with one study estimating that as many as 80% of male adolescents who report same-sex attractions no longer do so as adults.*
- *The hypothesis that gender identity is an innate, fixed property of human beings that is independent of biological sex—that a person might be “a man trapped in a woman’s body” or “a woman trapped in a man’s body”—is not supported by scientific evidence.*
- *According to a recent estimate, about 0.6% of U.S. adults identify as a gender that does not correspond to their biological sex.*
- *Children are a special case when addressing transgender issues. Only a minority of children who experience cross-gender identification will continue to do so into adolescence or adulthood.*
- *There is no evidence that all children who express gender-atypical thoughts or behavior should be encouraged to become transgender.*

The full 2016 report is available at:

http://www.thenewatlantis.com/docLib/20160819_TNA50SexualityandGender.pdf