

“GENDER IDENTITY” & THE GAY CULTURE WARS

Aaron Kimberly, RN



GENDER IDENTITY

Robert Stoller – 1964

An awareness of which biological sex one's self is.

A mostly unconscious cognitive social-psychological learning process which begins at about age 18 months. (Sex assigning intersex babies needed to be done prior to age 18 months.)

Flexible in childhood, until fully consolidated.

Versus “Gender Identity Disorder” which also starts around 18 months – 3 years.



DSM IV: GENDER DYSPHORIA

3 known pathways to Gender Dysphoria:

- **Early onset starting around age 2-3 –**
 - **Formerly called GID. Highly correlated with homosexuality.**
- Late onset starting in adolescence or adulthood
 - Transvestic disorder with AGP
- DSD related
 - Had been an exclusion criteria for GID



HOMOSEXUAL GENDER NON-CONFORMITY

The “OLD WAY TO BE GAY”

Butch Identity Development: The Formation of an Authentic Gender

Katherine R. Hiestand and Heidi M. Levitt 2005

What can the Samoan "Fa'afafine" teach us about the Western concept of gender identity disorder in childhood?

Dr Paul Vasey 2007



SCIENCE OF HOMOSEXUAL GNC

Late 90s

Dr Ray Blanchard discovered the **Birth Order Effect**

- up to 20% of gay men
- Highly feminized gay boys/men
- In North America – correlates with HSTS
- Replicated in Samoa and Brazil.

Butch lesbians/FTMs

- Evidence of prenatal testosterone exposure
- (e.g. CAH, OT-DSD, PCOS)
- Finger ratio studies in FTMs and intersex cohorts



IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SIGNPOSTS

1973 – Homosexuality removed from the DSM

1980 – GID added to DSM

1981 – First AIDS case

Late 80s – 90s – Crisis within the LGB

Gay Conservatives pushed for cultural assimilation. “Straight looking straight acting”. Gay marriage.

Gay Liberals developed Queer Theory. Cultural deconstruction of gender. GNC got channeled into that.

Many GNC gay/lesbian people were caught in the crossfire and numbers of transitions increased. Conservative lady boys and butch lesbians transitioned to assimilate better and Queer identified people transitioned to subvert gender norms.

These are competing interests.



QUEER THEORY

Michel Foucault – History of Sexuality 1976

Judith Butler – Gender Trouble 1990. Bodies that Matter 1993

Linguistics – E.g. Redefinition of “gender identity”

Gender Identities”, “Gender Queer”, “100 genders”, “Neopronouns”

New sexuality categories e.g. “Demisexual”

Diversity and inclusion - New flag. Expanded from LGBT to LGBTQ2SI*

Crisis within the LGBT - Loss of ability for each group to advocate for themselves

Queer Theory now being encoded into law and policy

(E.g. Federal conversion therapy law 2023)

New youth subculture (ROGD), culture war

Institutional Capture – e.g. medicine being used to advance queer theory

