

SEX, GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF EMERGING GENDER IDENTITIES

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FOUNDATIONAL INFORMATION

KEY TERMS

- ❖ **Biological Sex:** Referencing embodied and inherited traits, such as chromosomes, genes, hormones and physical markers.
- ❖ **Gender:** The psychological, social, and cultural aspects of being male or female.
- ❖ **Gender identity:** How you experience yourself (or think of yourself) as male or female, including how masculine or feminine you feel.
- ❖ **Gender role:** Adoption of cultural expectations for maleness or femaleness.



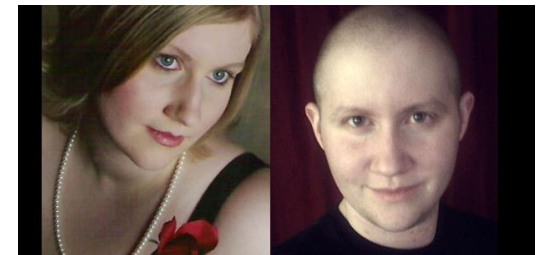
KEY TERMS

- ❖ **Gender dysphoria:** The experience of distress related to having a psychological and emotional gender identity that does not match one's biological/birth/assigned sex.
- ❖ **Transgender:** An umbrella term for the many ways in which people might experience and/or present, express (or live out) their gender identities differently from people whose sense of gender identity is congruent with their biological/birth/assigned sex.



KEY TERMS

- ❖ **Transsexual:** A person who believes they were born in the “wrong” body (i.e., of the other sex) and wishes to transition (or has transitioned) through hormonal treatment and sex reassignment surgery.
- ❖ **Gender Non-Binary:** a person whose gender identity resides between or outside of the gender binary



KEY TERMS

- ❖ **Intersex:** describes conditions in which a person is born with sex characteristics or anatomy that does not allow them to be identified clearly as male or female. This can be chromosomal, gonadal, or genital.

For example, congenital adrenal hyperplasia is a genetic disorder that can cause the adrenal glands in a fetus with XX chromosomes to produce hormones that cause her to be born with an atypically large clitoris.



EMERGING GENDER IDENTITIES

Agender: A person who does not identify as having a gender.

Androgyne: A person whose identity has both masculine and feminine aspects or is otherwise neutral or androgynous.

Aporagender: A non-binary identity that is neither male nor female.

Bigender: Experience of one's gender identity as comprised of two genders.

Demigender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity has a partial association with a gender.

Demiboy: A gender identity as partially boy or man.

Demigirl: A gender identity as partially girl or woman.

Feminine presenting: Not so much an identity as a description of how a person expresses themselves (as more feminine).

EMERGING GENDER IDENTITIES

Masculine presenting: Not so much an identity as a description of how a person expresses themselves (as more masculine).

Feminine-of-center: A gender identity that is feminine (but not specifying gender assigned at birth).

Masculine-of-center: A gender identity that is masculine (but not specifying gender assigned at birth).

Graygender: Someone who is ambivalent about gender identity / expression and does not present as either binary gender.

Gender expansive: Describes youth who express or identify in a range of ways outside the male/female binary.

Gender creative: Typically applied to children who express or identify their gender in a range of ways that differ from societal and cultural expectations for them, when these expectations are based on their biological sex.

Pangender: Describes those who draw from many of the possible genders to establish their own gender identity.



EXPLANATORY FRAMEWORKS



Identifies some resolutions of gender dysphoria as confusing the sacredness of maleness and femaleness and specific resolutions of gender dysphoria as violations of that integrity.

Lens 1



Identifies gender incongruence as a reflection of an uncommon but expected variation that occurs in nature. Christians might say it is a reflection of the Fall. It may be likened to a disability, a nonmoral reality to be addressed with compassion.

Lens 2



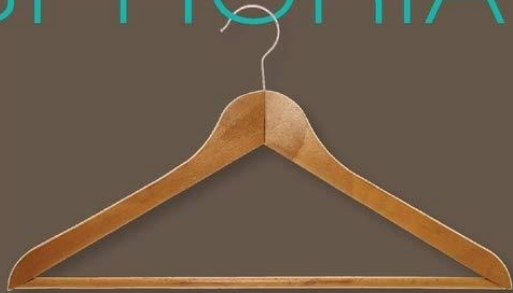
Highlights gender identity issues as reflecting an identity and culture to be celebrated as an expression of diversity. Addresses questions of identity and community.

Lens 3

3 lenses

MARK A. YARHOUSE

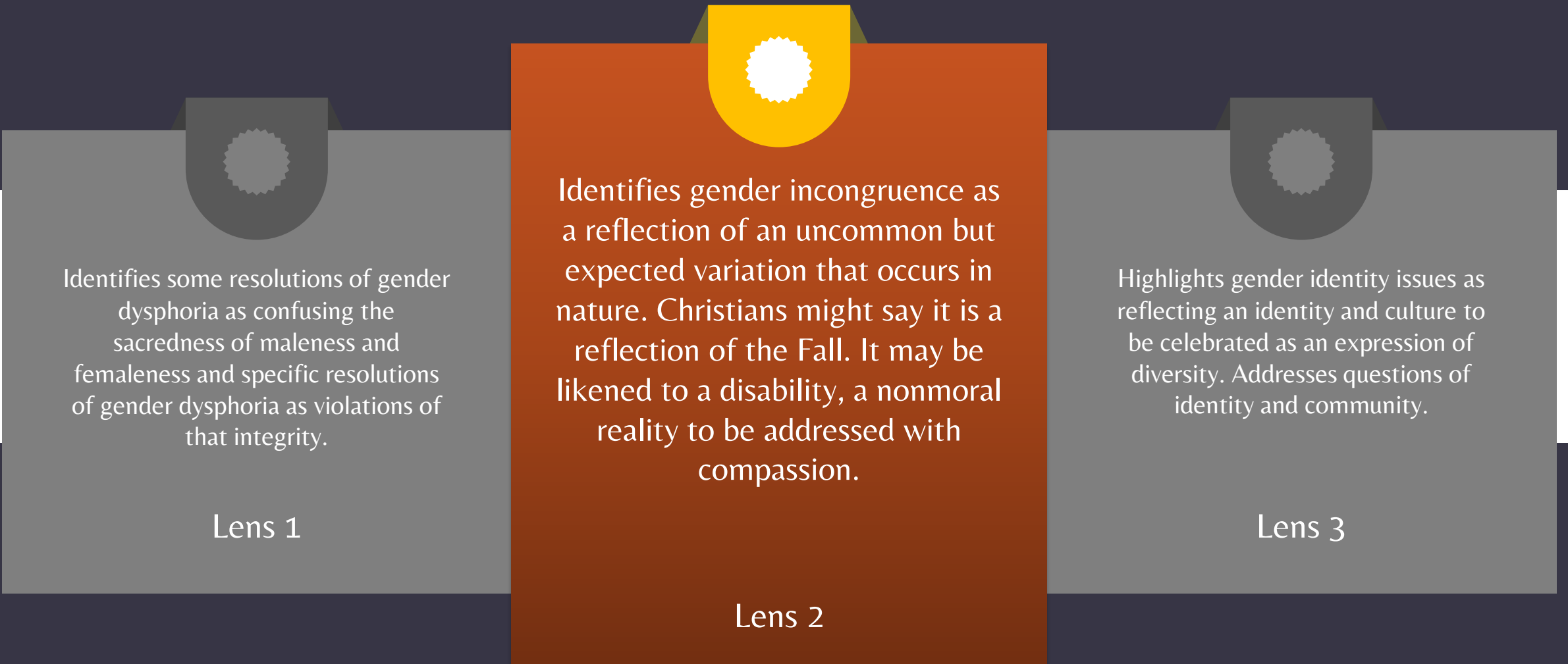
UNDERSTANDING
GENDER
DYSPHORIA



NAVIGATING TRANSGENDER
ISSUES IN A CHANGING CULTURE


INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

From the integrity framework: same-sex sexual behavior is sin in part because it does not “merge or join two persons into an integrated sexual whole...”; the “essential maleness” and “essential femaleness” is not brought together as intended from creation. When extended to the discussion of transsexuality and cross-gender identification, the theological concerns rest in the “denial of the integrity of one’s own sex and an overt attempt at marring the sacred image of maleness or femaleness formed by God.”




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Life is life, and things must be taken as they come. Sin is sin. And tendencies or hormonal imbalances have many problems, and we must be careful not to say that everything is the same. Let's go party. No, that no, but in every case, I accept it, I accompany it, I study it, I discern it and I integrate it. This is what Jesus would do today! Please don't say: "the Pope sanctifies transgenders." Please, eh! Because I see the covers of the papers. Is there any doubt as to what I said? I want to be clear! It's a moral problem. It's a human problem, and it must be resolved always with the mercy of God, with the truth ... but always with an open heart.

--Pope Francis




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Lens 2



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Lens 3

3 lenses



Trans* people are not "God's mistake"! Although other forms of human diversity may also wrongly lead to oppression by the privileged majority (differences of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, nationality, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religion), they often don't seem to cause the moral / theological outrage that gender diverse people do as if their very existence blasphemes against God. Yet to be born outside the gender binary really isn't any different than being born with any other form of diversity. To explain to others that we are transgender doesn't inherently suggest that God made any sort of mistake in creating us as transgender.

- H. Adam Ackley

BENEFITS

People can locate themselves and other family members

Avoid speaking past one another

Discuss how a lens became how they “see” experience

Facilitates cognitive complexity/perspective-taking

AN INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK



Integrity of sex differences

Compassionate management
of gender dysphoria

Meaning-making, identity,
and community



GENDER DYSPHORIA: ONSET AND COURSE



Childhood

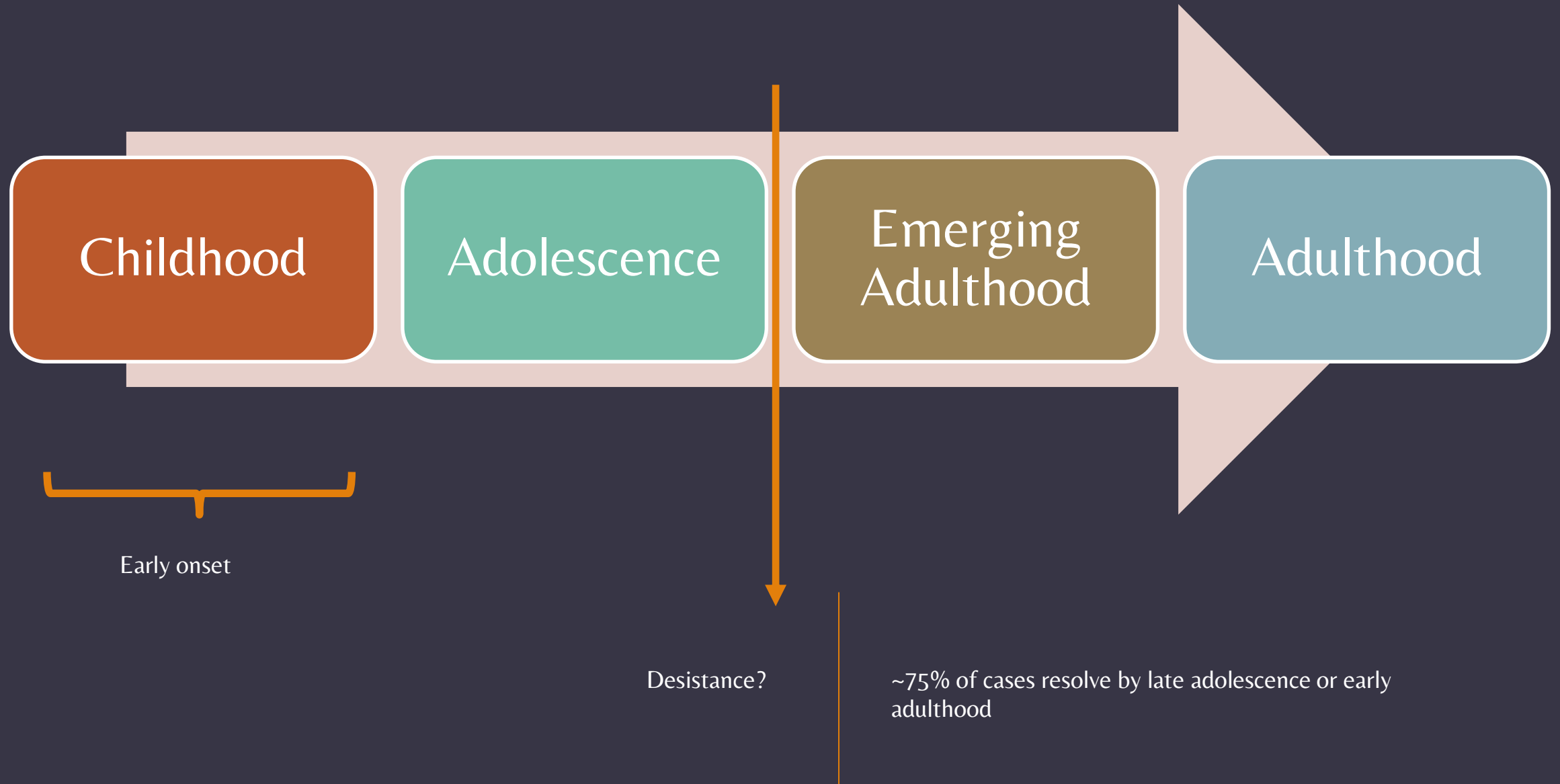
Adolescence

Emerging
Adulthood

Adulthood

Early onset

Late onset





THEORIES OF ETIOLOGY

Prevalence

0.5% to 1.3%
children, adolescents, adults

Zucker, K. J. (2017). Epidemiology of gender dysphoria and transgender identity. *Sex Health*, 14, 404-411.

0.6%-0.7%
adult population

The Williams Institute at UCLA;
The Gallup Poll 2022.

African-American (0.8%), Hispanic (0.8%), White (0.5%)
adult population

The Williams Institute at UCLA .

2.1% (Gen Z),
1.0% (Millennials),
0.5% (Gen X)
0.1% (Boomers)
by generation

The Gallup Poll 2022

Prevalence & Demographics

0.5%

children, adolescents

In the U.S. Transgender Survey, 33% of participants identified as TG women, 29% as TG men, 35% as non-binary, and 3% as crossdressers (James et al., 2016)

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The Will

In the U.S. Transgender Survey, 62% of participants identified as White, 17% Latina/o, 13% Black, 5% Asian, 3% Multiracial, <1% Native American, <1% Middle Eastern

Gallup Poll 2022



WHEN IT IS GENDER
DYSPHORIA...

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE GENDER DYSPHORIA?

- “On my bad days, the feeling of ‘I don’t belong where I should’ or ‘I don’t belong in this body’ lingers like an upset stomach. A more recent development is vehemently feeling that I am sick of feeling this way and that I just want to be ‘normal.’”



▪ “Gender dysphoria ... for me is the hiss of an old-time radio—a sound which can be ignored with some effort in order to hear the broadcast, but cannot be extinguished without pulling the plug. It has always been there, long before I understood what was making the noise.”

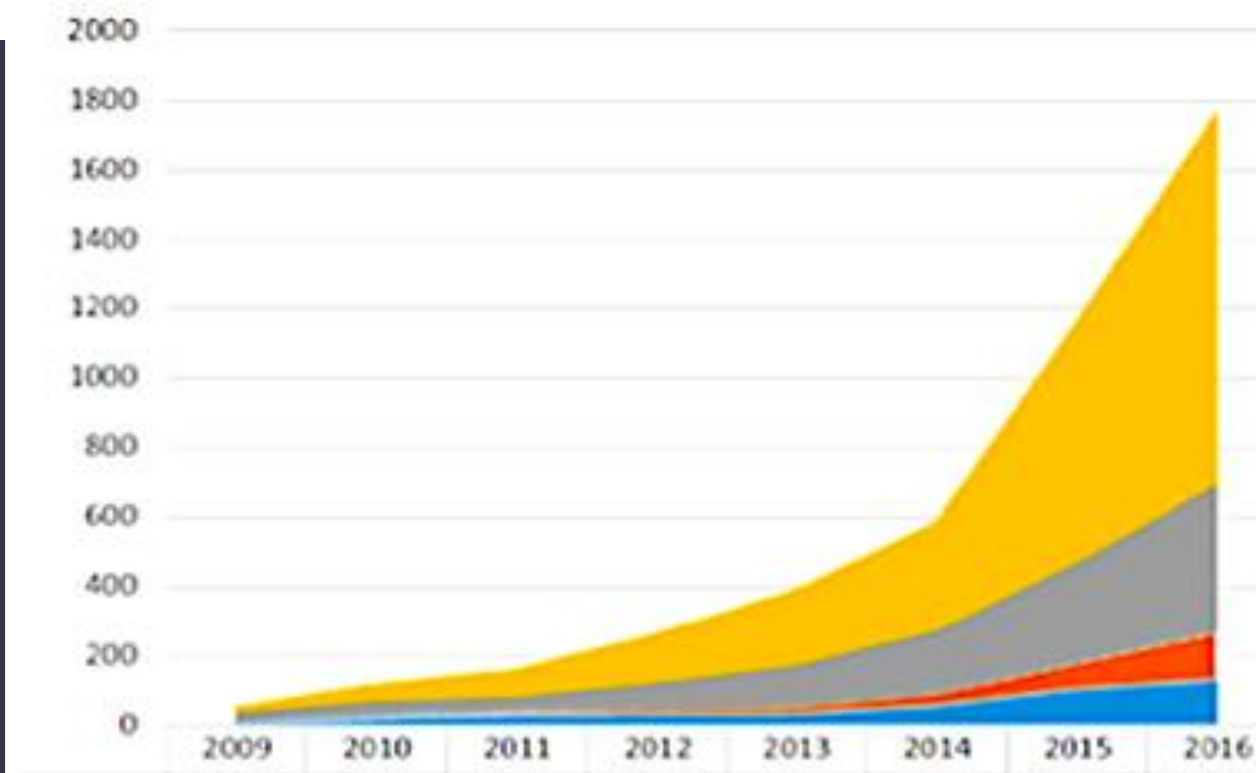


- “It’s like puzzle pieces that won’t fit together. Odd disconnection between body and self-identity. I look around and think, “How is it that it fits together for you?”



WHAT SENSE DO WE
MAKE OF RISE IN CASES,
SPECIFICALLY AMONG
NATAL FEMALES?

INCREASE IN ADOLESCENT FEMALE GD CASES



- Adolescents (female)
- Adolescents (male)
- Children (female)
- Children (male)

“Sex Ratio in Children and Adolescents Referred to the Gender Identity Development Service in the UK (2009–2016)”

TWO FREQUENTLY-CITED EXPLANATORY FRAMEWORKS

“Self-Awareness” Model

In an NPR report: “It’s the children who are now leading us,” said Diane Ehrensaft, the director of mental health for the clinic. “They’re coming in and telling us, ‘I’m no gender.’ Or they’re saying, ‘I identify as gender nonbinary.’ Or ‘I’m a little bit of this and a little bit of that. I’m a unique gender, I’m transgender. I’m a rainbow kid, I’m boy-girl, I’m everything.’”

“Social Contagion” Model

In Littman’s study, about one-third of youth were in friendship groups in which roughly half began to identify as transgender. Littman interpreted this apparent trend as “social contagion” and proposed that this contagion was contributing to the increase in natal females coming to specialty clinics in recent years.

Study of 256 parents of natal females whose, by parental indication, gender dysphoria began during or after puberty (Littman, 2018)

- None of the participants' children would have met diagnostic criteria for gender dysphoria in childhood

- Many parents reported their children had been diagnosed with at least one mental health disorder or neurodevelopmental disability

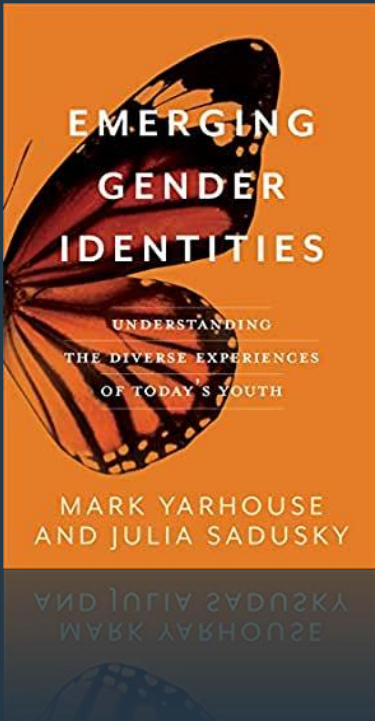
- Many had experienced a traumatic or stressful event

- Nearly half had been engaging in self-harm prior to the onset of gender dysphoria

Methodological concerns in sampling/recruitment

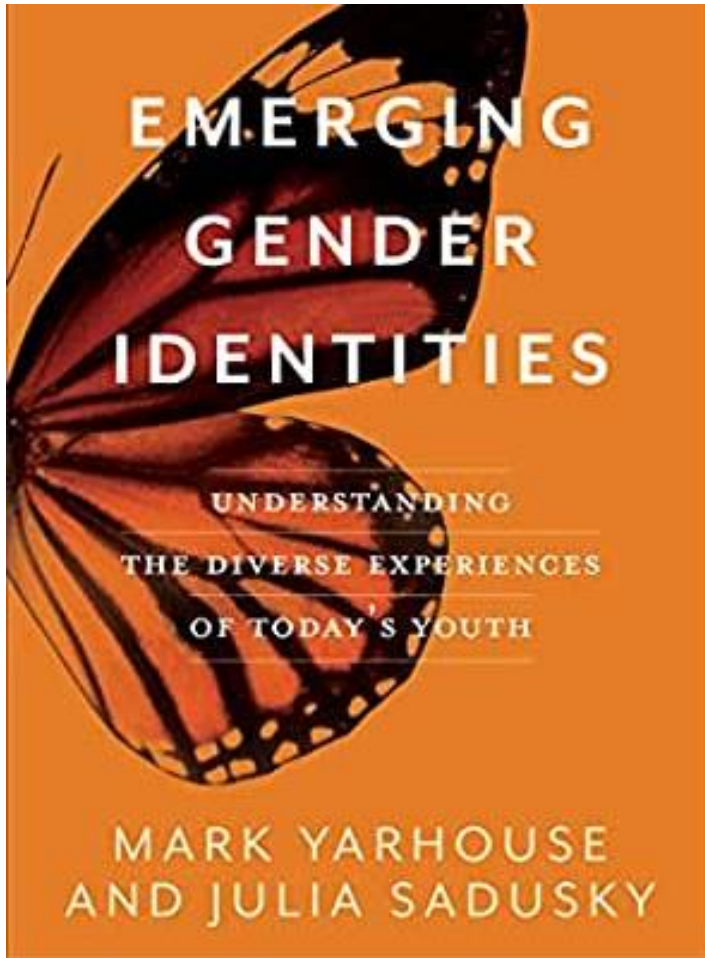


A MORE NUANCED PERSPECTIVE



There are elements of both biology and social processes at play in gender. (p. 38)

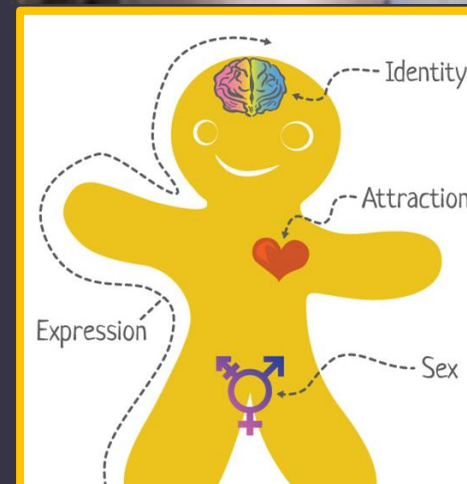
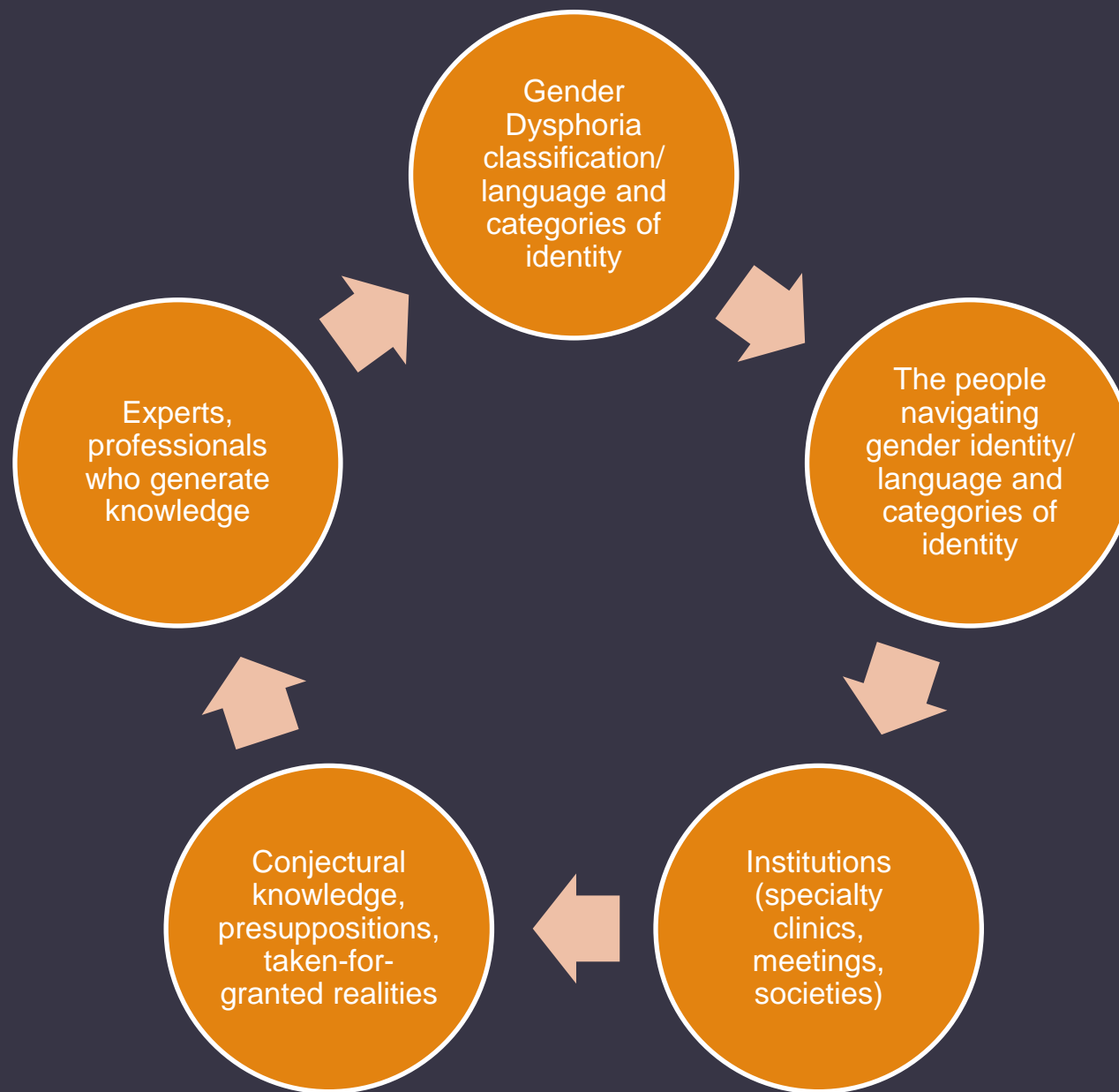
People react to how they are categorized.... Assumptions about one's self and the condition are shaped by mental health nomenclatures. (p. 28)

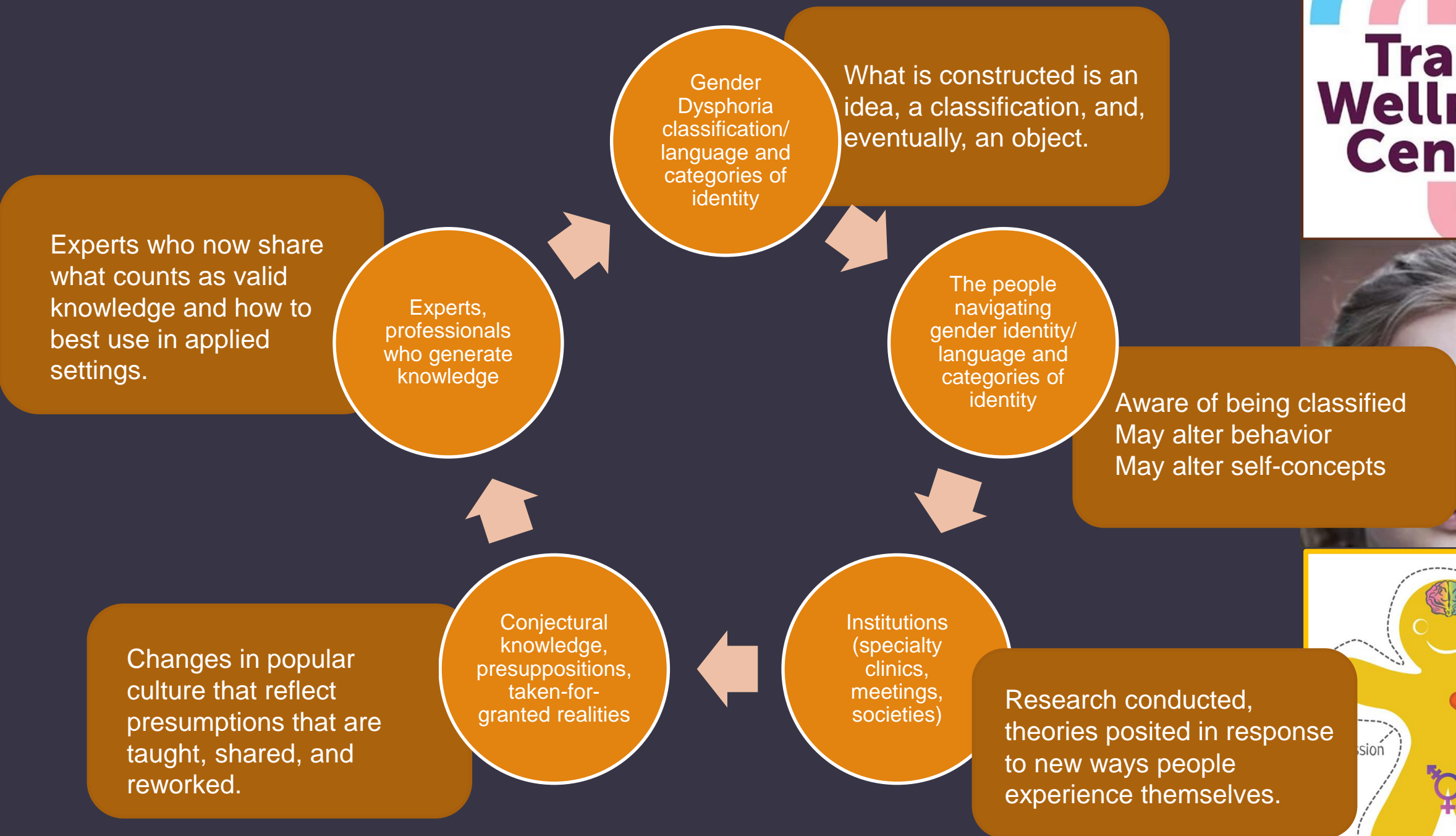
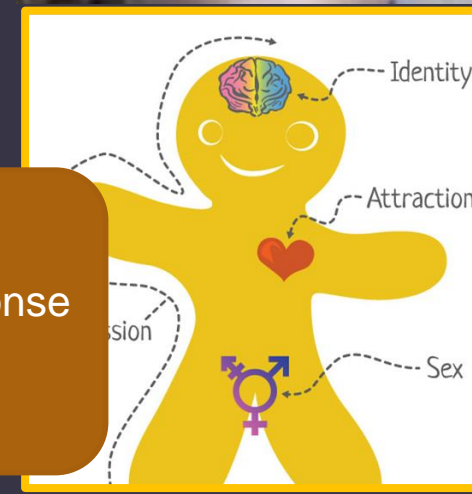
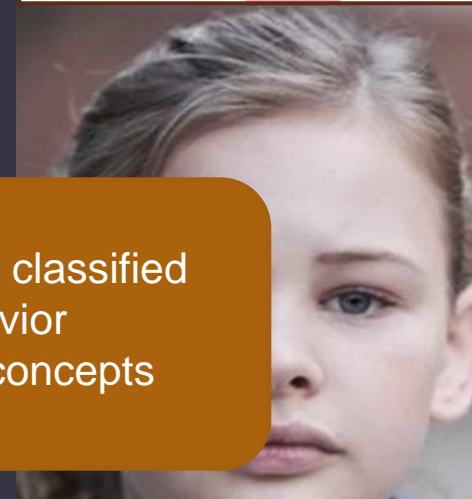


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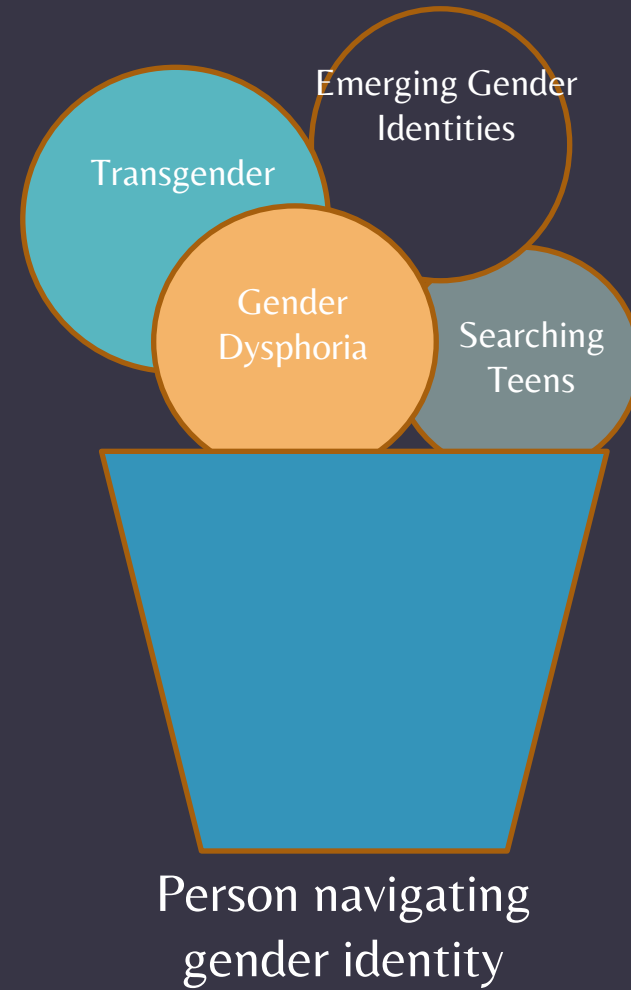
Transgender experiences today are not completely invented by society.... Something like gender incongruence has been reported throughout history and across cultures.

Yet... our vocabulary of gender identity also seems to shape people's perceptions and experiences of gender. (p. 33)





MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS OF GENDER IDENTITIES





QUESTIONS