



University of Connecticut

SOGIE* Dictionary

*Sexuality, Orientation, Gender Identify & Expression

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www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu

Dear Reader,

Thank you for inquiring about language and descriptors related to sexuality, orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. As you may be aware language is important and fluid in assisting with identities, social movements, oppression and empowerment. I want to offer gratitude to patrons and student staff of the Rainbow Center; and special appreciation to Lisa Cote and Megan Brannan. If you are interested in an interactive learning experience, please consider attending our Husky Ally Safe Zone Training and the Husky D.O.G. (Diversity of Gender) Training. Please register at <http://rainbowcenter.uconn.edu/huskyally/>.

Should you have a suggestion of a term or descriptor that should be included, please send your suggestion to rainbowcenter@uconn.edu. All suggestions will be taken under serious consideration for future updates. We know that due to the fluidity of language and social change, updates will be necessary. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Fleurette King, Director

Note about the SOGIE Dictionary

*All terminology listed in **red font** are terms which are, or can sometimes be perceived as derogatory.

*For a more detailed list of gender neutral pronouns check out the following link

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender-specific_and_gender-neutral_pronouns#Summary

A

ace: Shortened term for asexual.

aesthetic attraction: An attraction to the way someone looks but have no other attraction toward them.

AFAB: Acronym for assigned female at birth.

ag/aggressive: see 'stud.'

agender: 1) Person identifies as not having a gender. 2) Person who doesn't experience gender.

AIS: Acronym for androgen insensitivity syndrome. AIS is just one example of an intersex persons experience. AIS affects sexual development before birth and during puberty. People with this condition are genetically male, but their bodies do not respond to male sex hormones called androgens. Typically individuals will have external sex characteristics of females, but have internal testes where a uterus would be in a woman. Depending on the level of insensitivity to androgens individuals can have different combinations of internal and external sex organs, almost always resulting in infertility.

allosexual: Someone who feels sexual attraction toward people. Opposite of asexual.

ally: Someone who recognizes and confronts heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexual and genderstraight privilege in themselves and others.

AMAB: Acronym for assigned male at birth.

androgyny: Person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman, presenting a gender either mixed or neutral.

androphilic: Sexually attracted to men or masculinity.

anthrosexual: Attraction to humans, with the implication of gender blindness.

aromantic: Someone who does not have romantic attraction to anyone, but can feel sexual attraction.

aro: Shortened term for aromantic.

asexual: Person who is not sexually attracted to anyone but can still experience/feel romantic attraction or aesthetic attraction.

B

bare-backing: Practicing anal sex without using a condom.

BDSM: (Bondage, Discipline/Domination, Submission/Sadism, and Masochism) The terms submission/sadism and masochism refer to deriving pleasure from inflicting or receiving pain, often in a sexual context. The terms bondage and domination refer to playing with various power roles, in both sexual and social context. These practices are often misunderstood as abusive, but when practiced in a safe, sane, and consensual manner can be a part of a healthy sex life.

bear: A man who has facial/body hair, and a cuddly body. However, the word 'bear' means many things to different people, even within the bear movement. Many men who do not have one or all of these characteristics define themselves as bears, making the term a very loose one. 'Bear' is often defined as more of an attitude and a sense of comfort with masculinity and bodies.

beard: woman used as an accessory for a gay man at a social function in an attempt to assert his masculinity.

berdache: A generic term used to refer to a third gender person. The term is generally rejected as inappropriate and offensive by Native Peoples because it is a term that was assigned by European settlers to differently gendered Native Peoples. Appropriate terms vary by tribe and include: 'one-spirit', 'two-spirit', 'wintke.'

bicurious: A curiosity about having sexual relations with a same gender/sex person as well as a different gender person.

bigender: A person whose gender identity is a combination of two genders. Not always restricted to Male and female.

biological sex: A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external gender organs, secondary sex characteristics, and hormonal balances. The categories include intersex, female, and male.

binary: Consisting of, indicating, or involving two.

binary gender: An outdated view of gender, limiting possibilities to "man" and "woman".

binary sex: An outdated view of biological sex, limiting possibilities to "female" and "male".

binders: A device worn around the chest of an individual, designed for minimizing the appearance of breasts.

binding: The process of flattening one's breasts to have a more masculine or flat appearing chest.

biphobia: The fear of, discrimination against, or hatred of bisexuals, which is often times related to the current binary standard. Biphobia can be seen within the LGBTQI community.

biromantic: A person who is romantically attracted to the same and other genders.

bisexual: A person who is physically, and/or sexually attracted to two or more genders. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

bottom: A person who is said to take a more submissive role during sexual interactions.

bottom surgery: Surgery on the genitals designed to create a body in harmony with a person's preferred gender identity, and expression.

bug chaser: A person who actively seeks to have HIV positive sex partners.

burlesque: theatrical entertainment of a broadly humorous often earthy character consisting of short turns, comic skits, and sometimes striptease acts.

butch: A person who identifies themselves as masculine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. 'Butch' is sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians, but it can also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

C

catcher: See 'bottom.'

Castro District: A neighborhood in Eureka Valley in San Francisco, California. One of the first gay neighborhoods in the United States which really gained momentum in the 1970's. Named the Castro for the landmark Castro Theater in the neighborhood.

carpet muncher: A reference to a lesbian performing oral sex on another woman.

chapstick lesbian: A lesbian whose gender expression falls somewhere between femme and butch.

cisgender: A person whose preferred gender identity matches the one designated to them at birth.

cisgender privilege: The set of privileges conferred to people who are believed to be cisgender. (E.g. having one's preferred pronouns used, no harassment in public restrooms, no denial of expected access to health care, etc.)

cis-man: A person assigned male at birth who identifies as a man.

cis-woman: A person assigned female at birth who identifies as a woman.

closeted: An LGBTQIA person who keeps their identity or identities secret.

coming out: The process by which one accepts one's own sexuality, gender identity, or status as an intersexed person. May also refer to sharing this information with family/friends/the world.

consent: A positive affirmation to engage in an activity of any kind whether sexual or not.

cross-dressing: Someone who wears clothes of another gender/sex.

cub: A younger hairy gay man. Similar to a bear.

D

DADT: "Don't ask, don't tell," a U.S. military policy prohibiting gay and bisexual persons from disclosing their sexuality. It was repealed in September of 2011.

D&D: An abbreviation for drug and disease free.

demi man/guy: 1) Someone whose gender identity is aligned with men/women but not fully. 2) Someone who identifies only partially as man/woman.

demi girl/woman: 1) Someone whose gender identity is aligned with men/women but not fully. 2) Someone who identifies only partially as man/woman.

demigender: Someone who experiences gender but only to a certain extent.

demisexual: A person who does not experience sexual attraction until they have a strong emotional bond with a person.

DFAB: Acronym for designated female at birth.

discrimination: Prejudice and power. It occurs when members of a more powerful social group behave unjustly or cruelly to members of a less powerful social group. Discrimination can take many forms, including both individual acts of hatred or injustice and institutional denials of privileges normally accorded to other groups. Ongoing discrimination creates a climate of oppression for the affected group.

DIT: Dyke in training, a lesbian who is new to the scene .

DMAB: Acronym for “designated male at birth.”

domestic partnership: Title for those in a relationship (may be any combination of sexual or romantic), but who have not been legally married or cannot legally get married.

dominatrix: A person who takes a dominant role in sexual interactions, usually with the connotation of being a woman-identifying individual.

“**dom**”: A person who takes a dominant role in sexual interactions.

DOMA: Acronym for the “defense of marriage act.” A United States federal law enacted in 1996 that allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages grander under the laws of other states. This law barred same-sex married couples from being recognized as “spouses” for purposes of federal laws, effectively barring them from receiving federal marriage benefits. In 2013 section 3 was ruled unconstitutional.

drag: The performance of one or multiple genders theatrically.

drag king: A person who performs masculinity theatrically.

drag queen: A person who performs femininity theatrically.

drag show: A performance (often including multiple drag kings or queens) of gender stereotypes in a theatrical manner.

dyke: derogatory term for a lesbian

E

erasure: The removal of a person or groups identity from history, especially those who identify as belonging to an underrepresented group. Examples include race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender, amongst others.

equality: An ideal that all people should be treated equally regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, etc...

F

fag(got): Derogatory term referring to someone perceived as non-heteronormative.

fag hag: A term primarily used to describe women who prefer the social company of gay men. While this term is claimed in an affirmative manner by some, it is largely regarded as derogatory.

family: A way for someone in LGBTQIA community to refer to someone else who is gay.

female: A person whose cell nuclei has two x chromosomes.

femme: Feminine identified person of any gender/sex. Often used to describe a lesbian with feminine gender expression.

feminine: Having qualities or characteristics traditionally ascribed to women, as sensitivity, delicacy, or prettiness.

feminism: A doctrine/movement advocating social, political and economic rights for women equal to those of men.

fluid(ity): Pertaining to something that can easily change; not fixed.

FTM: Abbreviation for female-to-male transgender or transsexual person.

G

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 LGBTQIA community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

gender: A societal construct based on the binary gender assigned at birth and expectations then expected based on that assignment.

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 cues: What human beings use to attempt to tell the gender/sex of another person. Examples include hairstyle, gait, vocal inflection, body shape, facial hair, etc. Cues vary by culture.

gender dysphoria: 1) An official diagnosis for someone who experiences strong and persistent cross-gender identification. 2) A conflict between one's physical body and the gender with which they identify.

gender expression: How one represents or expresses one's gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, body features and voice characteristics.

gender identity: A person's internal sense of being male, female, genderqueer, or something else.

gender neutral: Suitable for, applicable to, or common to all genders.

gender normative: A person who by nature or by choice conforms to gender based expectations of society.

gender non-conforming: Gender identities that exist outside of the gender binary.

gender pronouns: Gender specific pronouns are associated with a particular gender, and denote either male or female. Gender neutral pronouns include the spectrum of gender identities and include, but are not limited to, ey, ae, per, ze, thon, they, zhe, and fae.

gender variant: A person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society.

genderfluid: 1) Someone who experiences gender in different ways at different times. 2) Someone whose experience of gender changes over short periods of time.

genderflux: 1) Someone who experiences gender to different degrees at different times. 2) Someone whose experience of gender changes over long periods of time.

genderfuck: The idea of playing with 'gender cues' to purposely confuse stereotypical gender expressions, usually through clothing.

genderqueer: A gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. Often includes a political agenda to challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.

genderstraight: see 'gender normative.'

GID: Acronym for “gender identity disorder.” The former name for the diagnosis now known as gender dysphoria.

graysexual: Someone who experiences sexual attraction in a non-normative way.

gynesexual: Experiencing sexual attraction to people who have vaginas.

gynephilic: Sexually attracted to women or femininity.

H

hankie code: A system that uses colored handkerchiefs and placement to symbolize preferences in sexual behavior and practices. Used primarily in the gay male ‘leather’ community, this system is designed to help quickly locate potential sex partners with compatible interests.

hate crime: A hate crime occurs when a person commits an act such as assault, battery, criminal damage to property or mob action because of the victim’s real or perceived race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Hate crime laws vary from state to state.

hate speech: Speech that attacks, threatens, or insults a person or group on the basis of national origin, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

hermaphrodite: 1) An out-of-date and offensive term for an intersex person. 2) A scientific term for an animal with both sets of functioning sex organs.

heteroflexible: Identifying as mostly heterosexual, but may have situational homosexual attraction.

heteronormativity: The assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities.

heterosexism: Prejudice against individuals and groups who display nonheterosexual behaviors or identities, combined with the majority power to impose such prejudice. Usually used to the advantage of the group in power. Any attitude, action, or practice – backed by institutional power- that subordinates people because of their sexual orientation.

heterosexual: Pertaining to a person’s sexual attraction to the opposite sex within the gender binary.

heterosexual privilege: Those benefits derived automatically by being heterosexual that are denied to people of other sexualities. Also, the benefits LGBTQIA+ people receive as a result of claiming heterosexual identity or denying their identity.

HIV/AIDS: A disease of the human immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). As the infection progresses it affects the immune system making the carrier more susceptible to common infections. Late symptoms are referred to as AIDS. HIV is transmitted primarily through unprotected sexual intercourse (oral and anal included), contaminated blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. Tears and saliva do not transmit HIV.

HIV-phobia: The irrational fear or hatred of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

homoflexible: Identifying as mostly homosexual, but may have situational heterosexual attraction.

homonormativity: The assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is homosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities.

homophobia: The irrational fear or hatred of homosexuals, homosexuality, or any behavior or belief that does not conform to rigid sex role stereotypes. It is this fear that enforces sexism as well as heterosexism.

homosexual: A person physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex.

HRT: Acronym for “hormone replacement therapy.” For trans individuals this is a process through which hormones are prescribed to treat gender dysphoria.

hypersexual(ity): Also known as sex addiction. Hypersexuality is characterized by preoccupation with sexual fantasies, and the pursuit of casual or non-intimate sex; pornography; and compulsive masturbation.

I

identity sphere: The idea that gender identities and expressions do not fit on a linear scale, but rather on a sphere that allows room for all expression without weighting any on expression as better than another.

institutional oppression: Arrangements of a society used to benefit one group at the expense of another through the use of language, media, education, religion, economics, etc.

intergender: A person whose gender identity is between genders or a combination of genders.

internalized oppression: The process by which a member of an oppressed group comes to accept and live out the inaccurate stereotypes applied to the oppressed group.

intersectionality: The interconnected nature of social categorizations.

in the closet: Refers to a someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+ who will not or cannot disclose their sex, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity to their friends, family, co-workers, or society. An intersex person may be closeted due to ignorance about their status since standard medical practice is to “correct,” wherever possible.

intersex: Someone whose sex a doctor has a difficult time categorizing as either male or female. A person whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and/or genitals differs from one of the binary expectations.

J

John Money: A psychologist, sexologist, and author alive from 1921-2006. He specialized in research of sexual identity and biology of gender.

K

kink: A non-standard sexual activity, fetish, or interest.

Kinsey scale: A scale designed by Alfred Kinsey in the 1940s which was published in *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, and later in *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. The scale attempts to describe a person’s sexual experience or response at a given time rating sexuality on a spectrum between 0-6, 0 being exclusively heterosexual, and 6 being exclusively homosexual.

L

labrys: Axe with double sides. Used as a lesbian power emblem. Also used during times when homosexuality was illegal to indicate sexuality to other lesbians.

LBD: Acronym for “little baby dyke”. A young lesbian.

leather: See ‘BDSM.’

leather dyke: A lesbian who participates in kink or BDSM with other women.

lesbian: Homosexual woman. Term derives from Greek isle of Lesbos where Sappho, who wrote poetry about love between women, started a female school in 6 B.C.E.

lesbian baiting: The heterosexist notion that any woman who prefers the company of woman, or who does not have a male partner, is a lesbian.

lezbo: slang and sometimes derogatory for lesbian.

lezzie: another derogatory term for lesbian

LGBTQIA: A common abbreviation for lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual community.

lipstick lesbian: Term for a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in a positive or a derogatory way, depending on who is using it.

lithromantic: A romantic orientation on the asexual spectrum which describes an individual who feels romantic attraction towards others, but who does not desire reciprocation of that attraction or does not wish to enter a romantic relationship.

M

male: A person bearing an X and Y chromosome pair in the cell nuclei.

male chauvinist: A male who patronizes, disparages, or discriminates against females in the belief that they are inferior to males.

marriage equality: A movement advocating for legal recognition of all marriages, and equal treatment of benefits of marriage regardless of the gender or sexual orientation of partners.

masculine: Having qualities traditionally ascribed to men, as strength and boldness.

metrosexual: First used in 1994 by British journalist Mark Simpson, who coined the term to refer to an urban, heterosexual male with a strong aesthetic sense who spends a great deal of time and money on his appearance and lifestyle. This term can be perceived as derogatory because it reinforces stereotypes that all gay men are fashion conscious and materialistic.

microaggression: The everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

monosexual: Romantic or sexual attraction to members of one sex or gender only. A monosexual person may identify as heterosexual or homosexual. In discussions of sexual orientation, the term is chiefly used in contrast to bisexuality. It is sometimes considered derogatory by the people to whom it is applied.

MTF: Abbreviation for male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.

N

neutrois: A non-binary gender identity that falls under the genderqueer and/or transgender umbrellas.

non-binary: Not identifying as either of the binary genders.

non-conforming: Not conforming to society's expectations of one's assigned gender.

non-labeling: One who chooses not to use a label to identify themselves.

O

omnisexual: Someone who is attracted to people of all genders.

oppression: The systematic subjugation of a group of people by another group with access to social power, the result of which benefits one group over the other and is maintained by social beliefs and practices.

otter: A typically thinner, hairier gay man.

outing: Controversial practice of revealing an LGBTQIA persons sexuality, sex or gender identity without their permission.

P

packing: Wearing a phallic device on the groin and under clothing for any purposes including: (for someone without a biological penis) the validation or confirmation of one's masculine gender identity; seduction; and/or sexual readiness (for one who likes to penetrate another during sexual intercourse).

pangendered: A person whose gender identity is comprised of all of many gender expressions.

panromantic: Someone who is romantically attracted to people regardless of gender.

pansexual: A person who is sexually attracted to people regardless of gender.

passing: Describes a person's ability to be accepted as their preferred gender/sex or race/ethnic identity or to be seen as heterosexual.

patriarchy: A form of social organization in which power is held by and transferred through males.

polyamorous: Refers to honest, usually non-possessive, relationships with multiple partners and can include: open relationships, polyfidelity (which involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and sub relationships (which denote distinguishing between a “primary” relationship or relationships and various “secondary” relationships).

polysexual: An attraction to multiple genders and/or sexes.

pomosexual: One who chooses not to subscribe to a label for their gender or sexuality.

prejudice: A conscious or unconscious negative belief about a whole group of people and its individual members.

pride: The feeling of gratification arising from association with something good or laudable. Typically associated with the LGBTQIA community in association with pride marches, and pride flags.

pride flag: Each community within the LGBTQIA community has a pride flag which acts as a symbol to support and empower members of the community. The rainbow flag is the best known which represents the community as a whole.

privilege: A advantage or benefit enjoyed by a particular person or a restricted group of persons.

Q

queer: A reclaimed word that was formerly used solely as a slur but that has been semantically overturned by members of the maligned group, who use it as a term of defiant pride. It is an umbrella term which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of the non-exclusively-heterosexual-and-monogamous majority. Queer includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transpeople, intersex persons, asexuals, and other sex communities.

questioning: Someone who is unsure of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

quoiromantic: Term to describe a person on the aromantic spectrum who does not see the lines between romance and friendship.

quoirsexual: Describes a person on the aromantic spectrum who cannot differentiate between sexual and sensual desire.

R

rainbow: The rainbow has become a symbol of the LGBT community. The original gay pride flag flew in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade in 1978. It is disputed where the inspiration for the use of the rainbow came from.

romantic attraction: An attraction or feeling causing a person to desire a romantic relationship with a specific person.

S

same gender loving (SGL): A term 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 live.

same-sex loving: Another term for homoromantic, but often used to mean homosexual as well.

Sappho: Lesbian from the Greek poetess of the same name, born on the Isle of Lesbos.

sex averse: Someone who has no inclination to engage in sexual activities.

sex enthusiastic: Someone who is willing to engage in sexual activities. Typically associated with someone asexual willing to engage in sexual activities for the pleasure for their partner.

sex positivity: A social movement which embraces sex with few limits beyond safe sex, and consent. Sex positivity regards sex as healthy, and pleasurable, and discourages any shaming associated with sexual activity.

sex repulsed: Someone who has an adverse reaction to engaging in sexual activities.

sexuality: A person's exploration of sexual acts, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, and desire.

sexual orientation: The desire or lack of desire for intimate emotional and/or sexual relationships with people of the same gender/sex, another gender/sex, or multiple genders/sexes

sexual preference: term utilized prior to sexual orientation

she-male: Derogatory term referring to a transgender or gender variant person, typically male to female.

skoliosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to non-binary identifying individuals.

spivakian pronouns: New terms proposed to serve as gender-neutral, third person, singular, personal pronouns in English. These neologisms are used by some people who feel that there are problems with gender-specific pronouns because they imply sex and/or gender.

squish: An aromantic crush/ a desire for a strictly platonic relationship with someone.

SRS (sexual reassignment surgery): A term used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's "sex". In most states, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance. **The preferred term is gender affirmation surgery.**

stealth: This term refers to when a person chooses to be secretive in the public sphere about their gender history, either after transitioning or while successfully passing.

stem: A person whose gender expression falls somewhere between a stud and a femme.

stereotype: A preconceived or oversimplified generalization about an entire group of people without regard for their individual differences. Though often negative, can also be complimentary. Even positive stereotypes can have a negative impact, however, simply because they involve broad generalizations that ignore individual realities.

stone butch/femme: A person who may or may not desire sexual penetration and or contact with the genitals or breasts.

Stonewall riots: A series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the gay community against a police raid on June 28th, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. The riots are widely considered the most important event leading into the gay liberation movement.

straight: Another term for heterosexual

straight acting: A term usually applied to gay men who readily pass as a heterosexual. The term implies that there is a certain way that gay men should act that is significantly different from heterosexual men and can therefore be considered offensive.

stud: An African-American and/or Latina masculine lesbian. Also known as 'butch'.

sub: A person who takes a submissive role in a sexual encounter.

switch: A person who is both a 'Top' and a 'Bottom', there may or may not be a preference for one or the other.

T

third-gender: The concept that individuals are categorized (by their will or by social consensus) as neither man nor woman, as well as the social category present in those societies who recognize three or more genders. The term *third* is usually understood to mean "other".

tolerance: A permissive attitude toward those whose race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender etc., differ from one's own.

tomboy: A masculine girl. Sometimes a euphemism for lesbian.

top: A person who is said to take a more dominant role during sexual interactions.

top surgery: This term usually refers to the surgery for the construction of a maletype chest, but may also refer to breast augmentation.

tranny: Highly offensive slur for a transgender or transsexual individual.

tranny chaser: A term primarily used to describe people who prefer or actively seek trans people for sexual or romantic relations. While this term is claimed in an affirmative manner by some, it is largely regarded as derogatory.

trans: An abbreviation that is sometimes used to refer to a gender variant person. This use allows a person to state a gender variant identity without having to disclose hormonal or surgical status/intentions. This term is sometimes used to refer to the gender variant community as a whole.

trans*: Trans with the asterisk is an umbrella term which refers to all identities within the gender identity spectrum. This makes an intentional effort to include all non-cisgender identities.

transactivism: The political and social movement to create equality for gender variant persons.

transgender: A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on biological sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

transhate: The irrational hatred of those who are gender variant, usually expressed through violent and often deadly means.

transition: Primarily used to refer to the process a gender variant person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex they feel themselves to be and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

trans-man: An identity label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transsexuals to signify they are men while still affirming their history as females. Also referred to as 'transguy(s).'

transphobia: The irrational fear of those who are gender variant and/or the inability to deal with gender ambiguity.

transsexual: A person who identifies psychologically as a gender/sex other than the one to which they were assigned at birth. Transsexuals often wish to transform their bodies hormonally and surgically to match their inner sense of gender/sex.

transvestite: Someone who dresses in clothing generally identified with the opposite gender/sex. The majority of transvestities are heterosexual males who derive pleasure from dressing in "women's clothing". The preferred term is 'cross-dresser' but 'transvestite' is still used positively in England.

trans-woman: An identity label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals to signify that they are women while still affirming their history as males.

turkey baster baby: child conceived by a female couple through at – home artificial insemination. Sometimes using an actual turkey baster, but usually not.

twink: A typically younger, thinner gay man with little or no body hair.

two-spirit: Native persons who have attributes of both genders, have distinct gender and social roles in their tribes, and are often involved with mystical rituals. Their dress is usually mixture of male and female articles and they are seen as a separate or third gender. The term is usually considered to be specific to the Zuni tribe. Similar identity labels vary by tribe and include 'one spirit' and 'wintke'.

V

versatile: Someone who may like either a dominant, submissive or balanced role in a sexual encounter.

Z

Ze/hir: Alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some gender variant persons. Pronounced /zee/ and /here,/ they replace “he” / ”she” and “his” / “hers” respectively

References

Definitions for the SOGIE Dictionary were found from various sources listed below as well as edited by a variety of UCONN students and staff from the UConn Rainbow Center.

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