Gender & Personality

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Outline

- Terminology
- Sex Identity
- Gender Identity
- Sex or Gender Differences?
  - Biology or Environment
  - Findings to Think About
- Identity Development
- Moral Development

Terminology

- How do we define females and males?
  - Biological
    - Sex
      - Genetic Sex
      - Anatomical Sex
  - Social
    - Gender
      - Gender Identity
      - Gender Role
Sex on Personality

- Genetics
  - Turner’s Syndrome
    - Only X chromosome
    - Effects on personality
  - Androgenized Females
    - Female embryo exposed to excess of androgen
    - Effects on personality

Sex Identity

- Anatomy is Destiny
  - Freud
    - Castration anxiety vs. penis envy
  - Erikson
    - External vs. internal genitalia has consequences on our approach to the world
  - Horney
    - Womb envy

Gender Identity

- An individual’s subjective sense of belonging to and being male or female
- Gender identity effects
  - Self-concept
  - Self-esteem
  - Talents pursued
Sex Differences?

- **Men**
  - Spatial Abilities
  - Better at tasks & measures of spatial abilities
  - Mathematics
  - Verbal & Physically Aggressive
  - Take charge in small groups

- **Female**
  - Verbal Abilities
  - Start talking earlier
  - Larger Vocabulary
  - Better in reading
  - Better at Nonverbal communication
  - More sensitive to nonverbal cues
  - More nonverbally expressive
  - Concerned & Involved in child rearing

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Maybe Gender Differences?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall intelligence</td>
<td>There are no differences in the intelligence of males and females as assessed by standard intelligence tests. Items that favor one sex over the other are balanced out so as to eliminate bias toward either sex.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal ability</td>
<td>Early research found that females outperformed males on tasks of verbal ability such as grammatical ability. More recent research suggests that many of the differences have diminished or even reversed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical ability</td>
<td>Males show greater mathematical ability on standardized tests, especially at the highest ability level. Yet females tend to get higher grades in math in school. Current research indicates that these differences are small in the general population.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual-spatial ability</td>
<td>Differences in visual-spatial ability may be related to different opportunities to practice the skills involved or possibly to prenatal hormonal influences. The differential school performance on mental rotation tasks is quite large, with males consistently outscoring females.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Contrary to popular belief, research shows that males talk more than females. Other differences, such as the use of top questions, are due to varying interpretations. Such questions have been attributed to traditions among males; an alternative explanation is that these questions facilitate communication.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>The overwhelming majority of crimes are committed by males. Laboratory research reveals, however, that knowing a person's biological sex tells us little about the level of aggression exhibited by that individual. There is little difference between the sexes in aggression toward same-sex targets. Situations seem related to appraisal of the provocation or fear of retaliation.</td>
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</table>

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Stereotype Threat

- Situation where one is at risk of confirming a negative stereotype
  - This worry impedes performance

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Gender Roles

Effects of Environment

Gender Stereotypes

**Instrumental**
- Active
- Ambitious
- Doesn’t give up easily
- Independent
- Not easily influenced
- Rough

**Expressive**
- Considerate
- Cries easily
- Gentle
- Likes children
- Needs approval
- Warm with others
The Effects of Advertising?

- Women receive more messages and pressures to be thin
  - Also targeted for more food ads (sweets, snacks)
- 1600 ads/day
  - 1/3.8 contains an attractiveness message
- Women’s magazines contain 10.5 times as many ads and articles promoting weight loss

Men

- Men’s articles more on body shape than weight
  - Emphasize muscle mass and bulk
- Men’s anorexia is on the rise
- To make the sexes equal, men are becoming as insecure about body image as women

Moral Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Preconventional morality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td>Punishment orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules are obeyed to avoid punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Instrumental orientation or personal gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules are obeyed for personal gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>Conventional morality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>“Good boy” or “good girl” orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules are obeyed for approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 4</td>
<td>Maintenance of the social order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules are obeyed to maintain the social order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>Postconventional morality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 5</td>
<td>Morality of contract and individual rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rules are obeyed if they are important, democratic rules are challenged if they infringe on the rights of others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 6</td>
<td>Morality of conscience</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The individual establishes his or her own rules in accordance with a personal set of ethical principles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moral Voices

**Men**
- Justice
- Rights
- Treating everyone fairly and the same
- Apply rules impartially to everyone
- Responsibility toward abstract codes of conduct

**Women**
- Care
- Responsibility
- Caring about everyone’s suffering
- Preserve emotional connectedness
- Responsibility toward real individuals