

THE SOCIOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER IN TRANSFORMATIONAL TIMES

Tom Gerschick, Illinois State University

AKD-CAST Workshop

2019 MSS Annual Meeting

April 17, 2019

Making Sense of Increasing Sex and Gender Diversity: Identities and Affirmation

Increasingly people are empowered to self-define their sex and gender. This has led to a diversification of identities and labels about which it can be hard to stay informed. Not everyone is accepting of this diversity which can also lead to conflicts in our classrooms and schools. Thus, we will talk through contemporary terminology and some strategies for affirming sex and gender diversity in our classrooms. If time permits, we will also discuss how to utilize contemporary topics such as the #MeToo movement as teachable moments. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of sex and gender variation and a list of resources upon which to draw.

Context

How are you positioned at work? Where are you in your career: tenured or probationary? What is the political environment in which you are teaching? To what degree do you have the support of your colleagues, principal and administration?

What are your students like? To what degree do they trust you and their classmates? To what degree will they make themselves vulnerable? How open are they to new ideas?

What are your goals when teaching about sex and gender? About variation in sex and gender? To what degree are you clear about them? What is your knowledge base? Confidence? What resources are available to you?

Language/Concepts

Asexual

Biological Sex

Cisgender

Gender

Intersex

Gender Binary

Gender Conforming

Gender Dysphoria

Gender Fluid

Gender Marker

Gender Questioning

Intersex

LGBTQIA+

Non-binary

Pangender

Queer

Questioning (as in gender questioning)

Sexuality and Sexual Orientation

Issues to consider when teaching

Aging
Bathrooms and Locker Rooms
Children and Youth
Employment, including Sex Work
Families and Friends
Health, especially HIV
Housing and Homelessness
Human Rights and Dignity
Identity Documents
Immigration and Asylum
Implicit Bias
Intersectionality: race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability,
Micro Aggressions
Military Service
Police, the Legal System, Jails/Prisons
Poverty
Pronouns and Gender Affirmation
Relationships: friendships and romantic
Violence

Some Resources (there are many available; this list is far from inclusive)

Teaching Transgender.org: <http://www.teachingtransgender.org/>
Very useful glossary of terms: <http://www.teachingtransgender.org/terminology-sheet-free-resource/>
On Bathroom Access: <http://www.teachingtransgender.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Everyones-Gotta-Go-Lesson-11-Teaching-Transgender-Toolkit.pdf>
Sample Teaching Schedules: <http://www.teachingtransgender.org/about/sample-training-schedules/>

The National Center for Transgender Equality: <https://transequality.org/>

Sociologists for Trans Justice: <http://s4tj.com/s4tj/>
Trans Justice Syllabus: <http://s4tj.com/s4tj-syllabus/>
Resources: <http://s4tj.com/category/resources/>
Blog

POV: Point of View

Documentary: From This Day Forward: <http://archive.pov.org/fromthisdayforward/>
Lesson Plan <http://archive.pov.org/fromthisdayforward/lesson-plan/>

National LGBTQ Task Force: <http://www.thetaskforce.org/>

InterAct: <https://interactadvocates.org/resources/>