

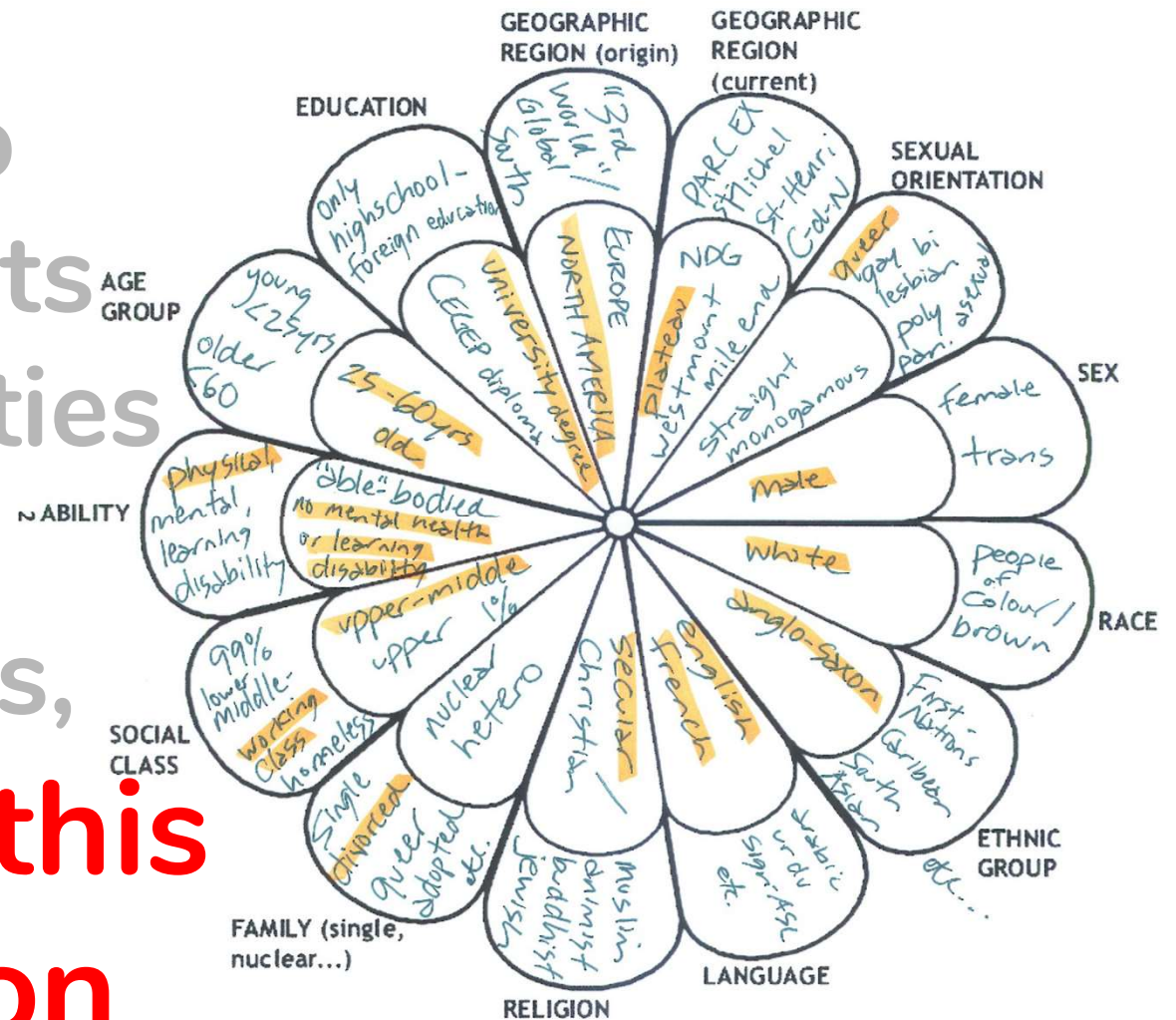
today

Socialization



If we start to
see all aspects
of our identities
as social
constructions,

how does this
construction
happen?



What aspects of ourselves are natural?
And what aspects are learned?



What aspects of ourselves are natural?
And what aspects are learned?



Nature vs. Nurture

new concept: **socialization**
throughout the life course



“The lifelong process by which we learn our culture, develop our personalities, and become functioning members of society” (Ravelli, 98).

Through socialization,
we learn **roles** that
are expected with our
social location.

role theory

Some key terms...

status: a recognizable social position that an individual occupies

role: the duties and behaviour expected of someone who holds a particular status.



**Robert
Merton**

role theory

Sociologists distinguish between two kinds of statuses:

ascribed status: a status into which one is born

achieved status: a status into which one enters/learns



**Robert
Merton**

examples?

gender roles

One of the most powerful sets of expectations we learn are **gender roles**:

→ sets of behavioural norms assumed to accompany one's status as male or female.

But what do we mean by **gender**?

Is gender an **ascribed** or **achieved** status?

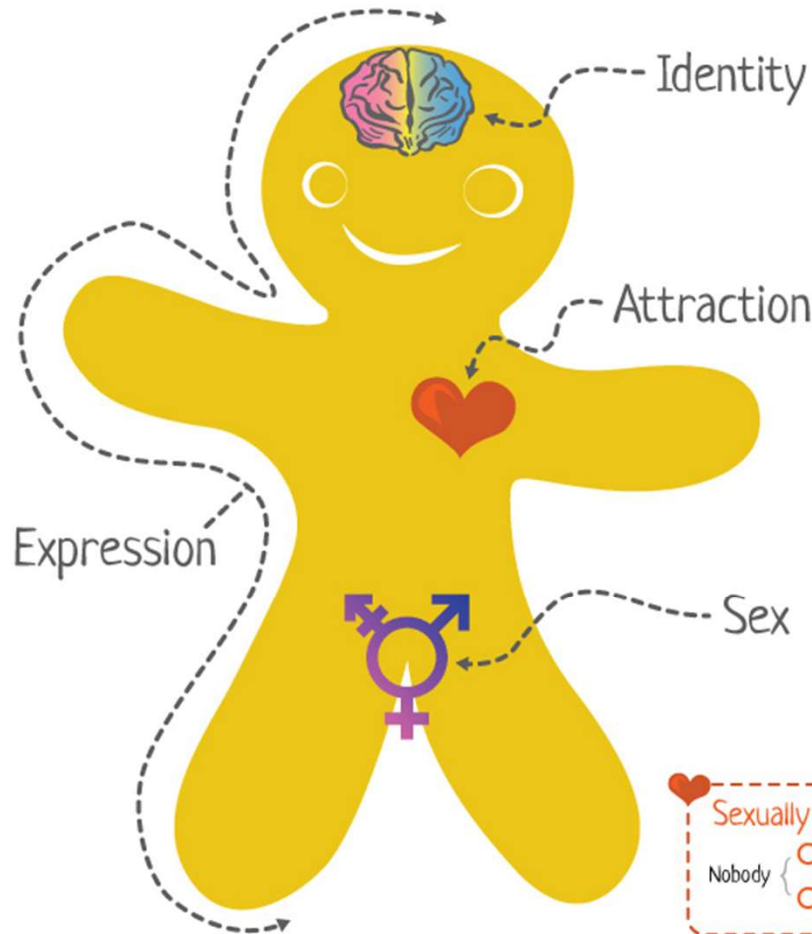
The Genderbread Person v3.3

by its pronounced **METROsexual**.com

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.

Plot a point on both continua in each category to represent your identity; combine all ingredients to form your Genderbread

4 (of infinite) possible plot and label combos



Gender Identity

How you, in your head, define your gender, based on how much you align (or don't align) with what you understand to be the options for gender.

Indicates a lack of what's on the right.

Woman-ness

Man-ness

Labels: "woman", "man", "two-spirit", "genderqueer"

Gender Expression

The ways you present gender, through your actions, dress, and demeanor; and how those presentations are interpreted based on gender norms.

Feminine

Masculine

Labels: "butch", "femme", "androgynous", "gender neutral"

Biological Sex

The physical sex characteristics you're born with and develop, including genitalia, body shape, voice pitch, body hair, hormones, chromosomes, etc.

Female-ness

Male-ness

Labels: "male", "female", "intersex", "MtF Female"

Sexually Attracted to

Nobody {

(Women/Females/Femininity)

(Men/Males/Masculinity)

Romantically Attracted to

Nobody {

(Women/Females/Femininity)

(Men/Males/Masculinity)

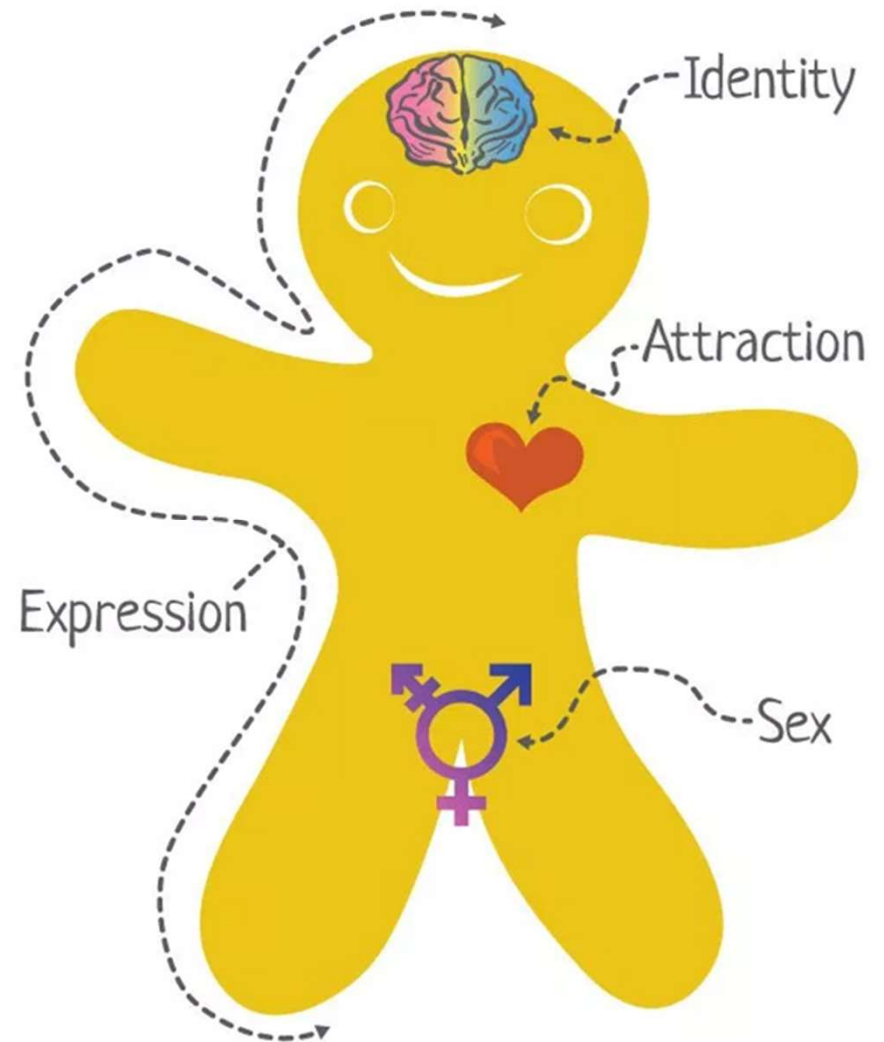
In each grouping, circle all that apply to you and plot a point, depicting the aspects of gender toward which you experience attraction.

For a bigger bite, read more at <http://bit.ly/genderbread>

“[W]e learn dominant social expectations about gender throughout our lives, and these provide a framework for understanding the world and our place within it.”

“Learning the ideology of the gender binary, and the socially constructed expectations about masculinity and femininity that go along with it, are central to the process of **socialization.**”

Johnston, Josee. *Introducing Sociology Using the Stuff of Everyday Life*. Routledge, 20170106. VitalBook file.



socialization **throughout the life course**



So, how does socialization work?

agents of socialization



We are socialized by **agents of socialization**: the people, groups and social institutions that teach us how to become members of society.

agents of socialization

EXAMPLES?



We are socialized by agents of socialization: the people, groups and social institutions that teach us how to become members of society.

agents of **socialization** throughout the life course

- family
- peers
- school
- media

