



This partial list of terms provides basic information to support further discussion and reading. Language is constantly changing; we encourage you to continue researching. Please note all terms should be chosen by a person for themselves.

Bisexuality: “I call myself bisexual because I acknowledge that I have in myself the potential to be attracted – romantically and/or sexually – to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree.” – Robyn Ochs

Fluid Sexuality: A person might identify as having a fluid sexuality their romantic and/or sexual attraction changes over time.

Pansexuality: A person might identify as pansexual when they experience the potential to be romantically and/or sexually attracted to people of many genders.

Romantic Orientation: How one thinks of oneself in terms of to whom one is romantically attracted. Not dependent on physical experience, but rather on a person’s feelings and attractions. A relationship is romantic when people involved say it is. People describe their romantic orientation using a wide variety of terms including, but not limited to, aromantic, heteroromantic, panromantic, and demiromantic.

Sexual Orientation: How one thinks of oneself in terms of to whom one is sexually attracted. Not dependent on physical experience, but rather on a person’s feelings and attractions. People describe their sexual orientation using a wide variety of terms including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, fluid, queer, asexual, and heterosexual.

Oppressions & Systems

Bi-/Pan-erasure: Denial of the existence of bisexual people, pansexual people, and people of fluid sexualities.

Bi-/Pan-invisibility: A lack of acknowledgement of the fact that bisexual people, pansexual people, and people of fluid sexualities exist.

Biphobia: The oppression bisexual, pansexual, and other non-monosexual people experience. Occurs both in and outside of LGBTQA+ communities. Includes jokes and

comments based on myths and stereotypes that undermine the legitimacy of non-monosexual identity.

Monosexism: Belief system grounded in the misconception that people are only attracted to other people of one gender, causing exclusion of and discrimination against non-monosexual people.

Gender Identity & Expression

Sexual orientation and romantic orientation are separate from gender identity and gender expression. People of any sexual and romantic orientation may be cisgender, transgender, or genderqueer; they may have any gender identity; and they may have any gender expression.

Cisgender: A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is the same as the sex assigned to them at birth.

Gender Expression: Is how you express your gender through how you dress, walk, talk, and the language you use for yourself. You can show your femininity, masculinity, androgyny, femme or butch identities, or all or none of these. Your gender expression is not dependent on your gender identity.

Gender Identity: Your innermost sense of yourself as a woman or a man or both or neither with identities including agender, genderqueer, gender fluid, etc. Your gender identity is not dependent on your anatomy.

Genderqueer: A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is neither woman nor man and is between, beyond, or a combination of genders. A rejection of the social construction of gender, gender stereotypes, and the gender binary system.

Transgender: An umbrella term that describes people whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. People who identify as transgender may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms including genderqueer, nonbinary, and transgender.

Gender and Sexuality Center

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