Because 71 genders are not enough

(Gender politics in the 21st century)
Some common ground:
The genderbread person
Identity

Attraction

Expression

Sex
Gender identity

- One's sense of one's gender
- Most people have a gender identity of man or woman (or boy or girl)
- For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those two choices
Gender Expression

- External manifestations of gender expressed through one's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, or body characteristics
- Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine and feminine changes over time and varies by culture
JESUS, HELEN — YOU CAN’T GO ON THE BEACH LIKE THAT! IT’S OBScene!
Expression

Gender Expression

Agender

Masculine
Feminine

“butch”
“femme”
“androgynous”
“gender neutral”
“hyper-masculine”
Sex

- The classification of people as male or female
- What is written on the birth certificate
- Chromosomes, hormones, internal and external reproductive organs, secondary sex characteristics
Sex / Sexe

Date of issue / Date de livraison

Australia

New Zealand

Germany

Biological Sex

Asex

Female-ness

Male-ness

“male”

“female”

“intersex”

“female self ID”

“male self ID”
Sexual Orientation

- Physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to another person
- Gender identity and sexual orientation are *not* the same
Attraction

Attracted to

Nobody

-Men/Males/Masculinity

-Women/Females/Femininity

-wide icons

-straight

-gay

-pansexual

-asexual

-bisexual

-pride flag

-trans flag

-social media like icon

-unicorn and cute cat
Gender Identity
- Nongendered: Woman-ness, Man-ness
- Asex: Female-ness, Male-ness
- Gender Expression: Masculine, Feminine
- Attracted to: (Men/Males/Masculinity), (Women/Females/Femininity)
Biological essentialism

Sex -> Gender
Biological essentialism

- Sex determines...
  - Preferences
  - Aptitudes
  - Intelligence
- Historically
  - Women shouldn’t vote… :/
  - Women don’t need to go to school… :/
  - Women in public office… :/
A “poststructuralist” view

Sex → Gender
Michel Foucault

- French philosopher
- Mid 20th century
- From a rich family
- Gay, sent to psychiatric treatment to get “cured”
- Language, power relations, identity
Michel Foucault

- Language not only describes, but also “produces”
  - E.g. homosexuality as abnormal
- Formal and informal power relations
  - E.g. medical/legal institutions vs. bullying/harassment
Judit Butler

- American Philosopher.
  Professor @Berkeley
- Poststructuralist feminism
- Gender is “performed”
- Gender is “performative”
Judit Butler

- “Being a man or being a woman is not an internal reality about us — it is not something that is simply true, or simply a fact about us. Actually, it’s a phenomenon that is being produced and reproduced all the time [...] nobody really ‘is’ a gender from the start. I know it’s controversial, but that’s my claim.”

- “All identities are failed identities, and that’s a good thing”
An “intersectional” view
INTERSECTIONALITY
a fun guide

miriamdobson.wordpress.com
@MiriamDobson
this is Bob.

Bob is a stripey blue triangle!
AND SHOULD BE PROUD.

yay me!
Sadly some people do not like Bob. Bob faces oppression for being a triangle, and for having stripes.
Luckily, there are liberation groups! But they aren't intersectional.

So they look like this.

They don't talk to each other. In fact, they compete.

I'm more oppressed.

No, I am! I deserve more!
Bob can't work out where to go.

"Am I more stripe or triangle?"

Bob wishes that the triangles and stripes could work together.

Oppression of one affects us all.

No liberation without equal representation!
Intersectionality is the belief that oppressions are interlinked and cannot be solved alone. Oppressions are not isolated. Intersectionality now!
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