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)

  - Sample Teaching Schedules: [http://www.teachingtransgender.org/about/sample-training-schedules/](http://www.teachingtransgender.org/about/sample-training-schedules/)

- The National Center for Transgender Equality: [https://transequality.org/](https://transequality.org/)

  - Resources: [http://s4tj.com/category/resources/](http://s4tj.com/category/resources/)
  - Blog

- POV: Point of View
  - Documentary: From This Day Forward: [http://archive.pov.org/fromthisdayforward/](http://archive.pov.org/fromthisdayforward/)


- InterAct: [https://interactadvocates.org/resources/](https://interactadvocates.org/resources/)