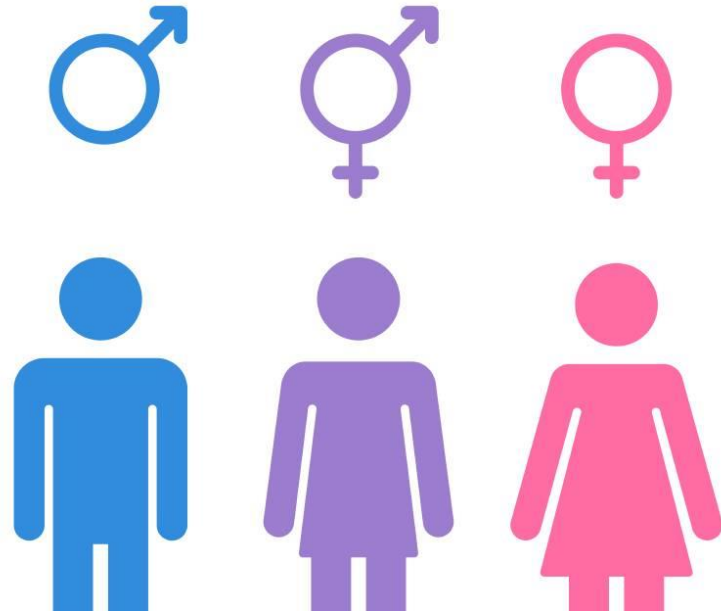


Is gender a choice?



by

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What do we mean by gender?

- According to Unger (1979) “Gender” represents to the social interpretation of the “raw material” characteristics associated with biological sex...
 - Chromosomal sex
 - Gonadal sex
 - Hormonal sex

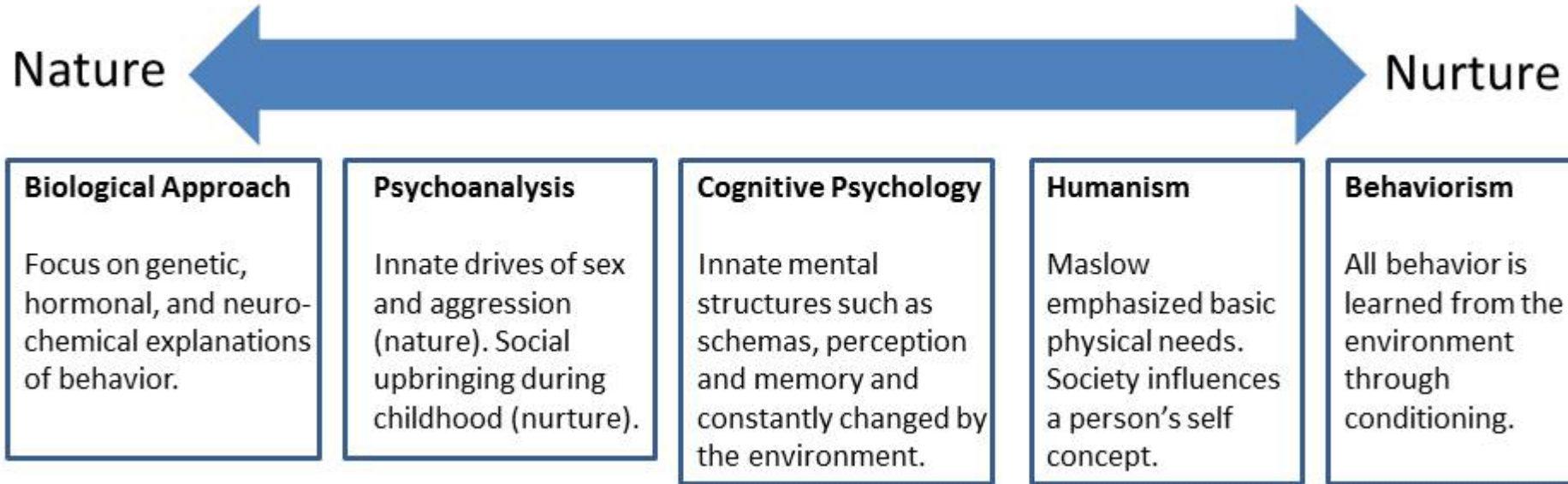
So what do we mean by choice ?

- They are those individual how report incompatibility and discomfort with their assigned gender.
- This condition is refuted to as “Gender dysphoria”.
- People experiencing gender dysphoria often undergo surgical and hormonal procedures in order to adjust their physical appearances. Those individuals are refuted as transsexuals.

- This leads to the question of what are the factors responsible for the emergence of gender identity ?
- Are they biological rooted and predetermined ?
- Or are they the result environmental influences. Making gender identity much more fluid phenomena, potentially influenced by personal choices ?

Naturally psychologists have tried to answer this question. With each field pushing their own narratives....

Approaches to Psychology



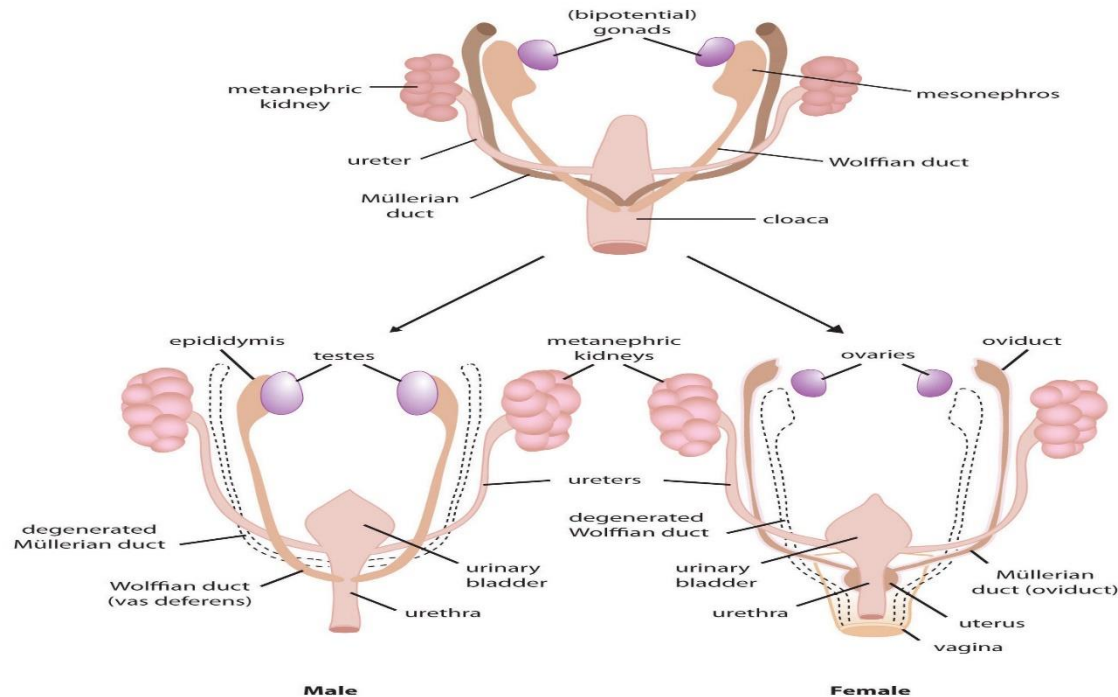
Still, the evaluation of existing evidence may give us a clue for the potential role of choice in the formation of gender identity...



Theories of gender development

The biological approach

- Initial sexual differentiation triggered by the sex chromosomes(XX, XY or other). Allowing the development of the gonad in either testes (in males) or ovaries (in females). This process begins approximately in the 8 week of pregnancy (Gross, 2010).



- Levels of testosterone are higher in XY males between the 8 and the 24 week of gestation. As well as in the first 6 months after both (Gross, 2010).
- Some evidence suggest the existence of male and female brains (Gross, 2010).
- Its speculated that the influence of testosterone may affect the brain and behaviour of XY males (Gross, 2010).
- Different toy preferences in boys and girls (Gross, 2010).
- Girls which were exposed to testers during pregnancy exhibit greater tendency to prefer male toys and form friendships with boy compared to other girls (Gross, 2010).

- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)- (XX) females
- The Batista family- overnight sex change (Gross, 2010).

Social learning theory

- Durkin (1995) Gender reinforcement through the principles of operant conditioning
- Sears et al. (1957) promotion of aggressive behaviour in boys by the parents.
- Bussey (1984) -Observational learning
- According to Maccoby and Jacklin (1974) there are no differences in the types of reinforcement.

Conclusive remarks

References

Gross, R. (2010). *Psychology: The science of mind and behaviour 6th edition*. Hodder Education.