L. SOCIAL SEX ROLE

Recent research, prompted in part by changing social conditions, has sought to distinguish gender from sex role, emphasizing the culturally contingent nature of the latter. It was of course a commonplace of older stereotypes of homosexuality that "inverts" were characterized by their compulsive adoption of traits of the other sex. A more nuanced approach has made obsolete this notion, though some have questioned whether—in view of the biological bedrock on which every human organism rests—we can so confidently make an absolute separation between gender and social sex role (see "Biology," XXIV.A). In an area of research that is to some extent in flux, some have argued that in American society, the traditional male sex role is rigid, constricting, and not conducive to psychological health, others (and sometimes the same individuals) have urged that women incorporate these same qualities, so as to more "androgynous" and effective at work and at home.

3601. ARCHER, JOHN, and BARBARA LLOYD. Sex and Gender. Revised ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985. 355 pp. Critical review for the lay reader of the accumulating body of research on the extent to which men and women differ, the origins and implications of the differences in physical development, sexual experience, emotional expression, mental health, aggression, power, family, life, work, and achievement. The authors tend to favor sociocultural and environmental explanations, downplaying biological approaches. For an opposing synthesis, see Jo Durden-Smith and Diane Desimone, Sex and the Brain (New York: Arbor House, 1983; 298 pp.).


At tempted to validate a psychometric instrument intended to measure varying degrees of "masculine gender identity" in women.


From a gay liberation and feminist standpoint, uses ethnological and other data to argue that gender categories are socially conditioned rather than natural.


Contends that while certain forms of homosexuality (passive male and active female) are expressions of personality inversion, other forms of homosexuality have nothing to do with inversion.


Invaluable review of the literature since the 1950s on the "male role," with special attention to empirical discoveries, political assumptions and implications, and theoretical framework.


Suggests that homosexuality may be appropriately conceived as an alternate lifestyle rather than a nosological entity, and that gender role may, in some instances, be more important than biological sex with respect to an individual's self-perceived personality characteristics.


The author, a psychologist and theologian at Yale Divinity School, holds that the problems of distorted masculinity are essentially caused by males and must be resolved by them.


Questioning the heterosexual-homosexual dichotomy, argues that sexuality is more socialization than innate biology.


Provides detailed abstracts on ca. 400 items; note esp.
section VIII: "Relations with Men" (pp. 116-2).


3612. JONES, RANDALL W., and JOHN P. DE CECCO. "The Femininity and Masculinity of Partners in Heterosexual and Homosexual Relationships," JH, 8 (1982), 37-44. Examined whether (1) partners in homosexual relationships perceived themselves as less stereotypically masculine or feminine than heterosexual partners; (2) partners complement or match each other in their self-perceived femininity and masculinity; and (3) partner's femininity and masculinity correlate with their views on attachment and autonomy.

3613. KAPLAN, ALEXANDRA G., and JOAN P. BEAN. Beyond Sex-Role Stereotypes: Readings toward a Psychology of Androgyny. Boston: Little, Brown, 1976. 392 pp. Reprints papers chosen for their support of a model of well-being that draws from the valued characteristics of both men and women. This anthology reflects a major strand of feminist research that emerged in the 1970s.


3617. MACCOBY, ELEANOR E. (ed.). The Development of Sex Differences. Stanford: Stanford University Press,

In terms of socially valued masculine and feminine characteristics, the majority of 88 gay men tested viewed themselves as predominately androgynous.

Based on a decade of work with some 500 men and women, aged 18–75, concludes that "[t]here is no intimacy in most male friendships and none of what intimacy offers: solace and support."

Recent research on gay male and lesbian couples suggests that traditional gender role-playing sometimes occurs in their relationships, though it is less common than in heterosexual relationships.

Nine of eleven males with prepubertal discordance of gender identity/role have been maintained in the follow-up until young adulthood. All are known to be homosexual or predominantly so. See also: Money, "Sexual Dimorphism and Homosexual Gender Identity," Psychological Bulletin, 74 (1970), 425–40; as well as other papers by this author.

Collection of essays generally maintaining that traditional concepts of masculinity are constricting and stressful, and advocating their attenuation in keeping with a major strand of the "men's liberation" trend.

3623. ROBINSON, BRYAN E., et al. "Sex Role Endorsement among Homosexual Men across the Life Span," Ar-
chives of Sexual Behavior, 11 (1982), 355-59. A pattern of diverse sex-role endorsement was found from adolescence to maturity in which subjects were equally androgynous, masculine, feminine, and undifferentiated at each age level.


3625. ROSS, MICHAEL W. "Relationship between Sex Role and Sex Orientation in Homosexual Men," New Zealand Psychologist, 4 (1975), 25-29. Concludes that sex role has no necessary correlation with sex orientation and that high femininity scores on the MMPI and CPI should not be taken as evidence of male homosexuality.


3627. SMITH, SIDNEY GREER. "A Comparison among Three Measures of Social Sex Role," JH, 9 (1983), 99-107. Results of comparison of De Cecco-Shively Social Sex-Role Inventory (DSI) with the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI) and the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ).


3629. TYSON, PHYLLIS. "A Developmental Line of Gender Identity, Gender Role, and Choice of Love Object," Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 30 (1982), 61-86. Attempts to merge today's more complex concepts of gender role with the traditional psychoanalytic sequence of oral, anal, phallic, latency, and adolescent phases.

3630. VETERLING-BRAGGIN, MARY (ed.). "Femininity,"
Collection of essays questioning straightforward identification of sex and gender and canvassing the viability of the androgyny concept.

M. STIMULUS-RESPONSE TESTS

Stimulus-response techniques are associated with behavioristic psychology, where they are central to the model of human behavior. Here a more specific application is meant. In studying sexual orientation special devices have been created to measure penile and vaginal response, as well as eye movements and pupil changes that are regarded as significant. In some instances, as with work with incarcerated pedophiles, there are serious ethical problems in the use of these techniques. Devices of this kind are sometimes used in behavior therapy (sometimes known as aversion therapy; see XVII.B).

3631. BARR, RON, and ALEX BLACZYNISKI. "Autonomic Responses of Transsexual and Homosexual Males to Erotic Film Sequences," Archives of Sexual Behavior, 5 (1976), 211-22.

Tonic heart rate increases were higher in both groups for slides of homosexual content.

Report of a study at a psychiatric hospital in Prague conducted to show that penile volume changes while the subject viewed erotic subjects served to detect sexual deviances. Subsequently, Freund became identified with this technique, sometimes termed "penile plethysmography." See also his: "Diagnosing Homo- or Heterosexuality and Erotic