Asking About GENDER
About me

• Chad Gowler (they/them)

• HCIT MSc

• Spoken at several web conferences, usergroups and orgs inc Edinburgh Uni and MoJ Digital
Gender

Select One

Male
Female
The Gender Spectrum Analyser

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Chromosomes" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) | ![Sexual Characteristics](#) |

| ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) | ![Expression](#) |

| ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) | ![Perception](#) |

| ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) | ![Identity](#) |
The Gender Spectrum Analyser

Chromosomes

Sexual Characteristics

Expression

Perception

Identity
Intersex

• All children are assigned a gender at birth based on appearance

• Someone born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male

• ~1 in 1500 births

• Important if you are using gender to describe physicality
The Gender Spectrum

A transgender woman is a person who was assigned male at birth based on her anatomy but who identifies as a woman.

A transgender man is a person who was assigned female at birth based on his anatomy but who identifies as a man.

A genderqueer person is someone who identifies as neither completely male nor completely female. Such an individual may identify with both genders or neither gender, or they may identify as gender fluid, meaning that their gender fluctuates between female and male.

Sexuality refers to an individual’s sexual attraction to or the kind of person to whom they are attracted. Sexuality is a spectrum that is separate from both sex and gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chromosomes</th>
<th>Sexual Characteristics</th>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Identity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Gender Spectrum Analyser

- Chromosomes
- Sexual Characteristics
- Expression
- Perception
- Identity

F M F M F M F M F M
The Gender Spectrum Analyser

Chromosomes

Sexual Characteristics

Expression

Perception

Identity
Transgender

• Someone who is not the gender they were assigned at birth

• ~500,000 people in the UK, although nobody really knows

• Vulnerable population

• Important if you are using gender to describe physicality or lived experience
Non-binary

- Someone who does not identify as male or female
- Genderqueer, genderfluid, bigender, gender non-conforming
- Not legally recognised
- Be careful using gendered language
- Important if you are using gender to describe physicality or lived experience
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chromosomes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual Characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expression</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perception</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Gender Spectrum Analyser
So what’s the issue?

• Our model of gender is incomplete
• False data
• Do you need to know gender? Are you really going to use it?
• Hurtful assumptions
• Statistics
• Research fatigue
Titles and pronouns

• Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mx - social titles

• Ask people their pronouns if you’re interviewing them or are going to quote them

• Do not use name, title or pronoun to assume gender
Currently studying a MSc in HCI at York. Talks about gender, gaming, software, mental health. Genderqueer. pronoun.is/they/them?or=ze
Pronouns

How DON’T you ask about gender?

Gender
Let us know so we can call you by the appropriate pronoun.

Language
Let us know what language you want to use on Vimeo.
How DON’T you ask about gender?

Pronoun
Help us call you by the proper pronoun.

- Female
- Male
- Neutral
- Rather not say
How DON’T you ask about gender?
How DON’T you ask about gender?

Nickname: yogi5578621

Gender: [Male] [Female]

Birthday: 1990-06-16

Country: United States
How DON’T you ask about gender?

Gender

- Male
- Female
- Not known
- Not Given
- Transgender

Date of birth

Day ▼ Month ▼ Year ▼

Ethnicity

Please Select ▼
2. Gender

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Transgender (please indicate preferred)
☐ Prefer not to say

3. Is your gender identity the same as you were assigned at birth?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say
So many options...

- Text fields are great but hard to parse
- Have more options, but what?
- Other, transgender are all bad
- Non-binary is ok, but not everyone
- Don’t be cute
- Always have “prefer not to say”
How do you ask about gender?
How DO you ask about gender?
Reading

- Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality - Anne Fausto-Sterling
- Delusions of Gender: The Real Science Behind Sex Differences - Cordelia Fine
- Trans Like Me: A Journey for All of Us - C.N. Lester
  - https://vimeo.com/166790858
- https://abookapart.com/products/design-for-real-life