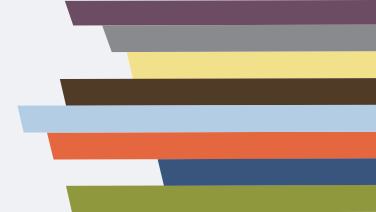


“Ace”, “Queer”, “Cis”: Emerging LGBTQIA+ Identities



LGBTQIA+ Identity Spectrums

LGBTQIA+ identity crosses a variety of intersecting spectrums. No one individual could list every term for LGBTQIA+ people and relationships. New terms are evolving all the time, and the process of self-identifying is a wholly personal one. An individual’s identity may shift over time and may include elements that seem unexpected. Focus on listening to individuals and using the terms they use to describe themselves.



<p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>Heterosexual, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, Same Gender Loving</p>	<p>Gender Expansive Spectrums</p> <p>Cisgender Male/Female, Transgender, Genderfluid, Nonbinary, Demigender, Two Spirit</p>	<p>Amount of Sexual Desire</p> <p>Asexual/Ace, Aromantic/Aro, Demisexual, Graysexual, Allosexual</p>	<p>Gender/Role Attraction</p> <p>Feminine/Masculine of Center, Butch/Femme, Top/Bottom/Verse/Switch</p>			
<p>Number of Partners</p> <p>Monogamy, “Monogam-ish”, Consensual Nonmonogamy, Polyamory, Polyfidelity, Relationship Anarchy, Swinging</p>	<p>BDSM and Kink Association</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="487 1291 803 1507"> <p>Sensation Play</p> <p>Bondage & Discipline, Spanking/Flogging, Rope Play, Breath Play</p> </td> <td data-bbox="803 1291 1182 1507"> <p>Power Exchange</p> <p>Dominance and Submission, Sir/Ma’am, Teacher/Student, Age Roleplay</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1182 1291 1624 1507"> <p>Kink/Fetish Play</p> <p>Leather, Latex, Furies, Feet</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Sensation Play</p> <p>Bondage & Discipline, Spanking/Flogging, Rope Play, Breath Play</p>	<p>Power Exchange</p> <p>Dominance and Submission, Sir/Ma’am, Teacher/Student, Age Roleplay</p>	<p>Kink/Fetish Play</p> <p>Leather, Latex, Furies, Feet</p>
<p>Sensation Play</p> <p>Bondage & Discipline, Spanking/Flogging, Rope Play, Breath Play</p>	<p>Power Exchange</p> <p>Dominance and Submission, Sir/Ma’am, Teacher/Student, Age Roleplay</p>	<p>Kink/Fetish Play</p> <p>Leather, Latex, Furies, Feet</p>				

Absolutely “Aces”¹



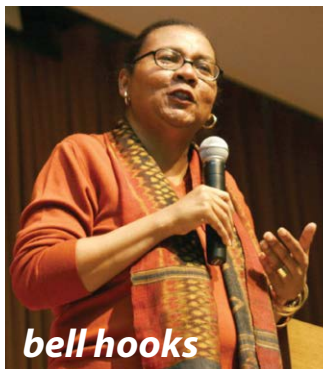
Asexuality is often misunderstood, even by those within the LGBTQIA+ community. People who are asexual experience little or no sexual attraction to others. They may or may not also be **aromantic**, an absence of romantic attraction to others. These categories can exist on a scale - for example, **graysexual** individuals seldom experience sexual attraction, while **demisexual** individuals only experience sexual attraction after a significant emotional connection has been established.

Asexual is in contrast to **“allosexual”** individuals, those who do experience sexual attraction. Asexuality is also different from celibacy, a voluntary decision to abstain from sex. Asexual people may still be sexually active, even if they do not personally derive much pleasure from it.



“Ace”, “Queer”, “Cis”: Emerging LGBTQIA+ Identities

Queer Means “Invent and Create”^{2,4}



Activist and scholar bell hooks defined queerness as

*“Queer” not as being about who you’re having sex with (that can be a dimension of it); but queer as being about **the self that is at odds with everything around it** and has to invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live.”*

While “queer” has historically been used as a slur against LGBTQIA+ people, it is also a reclaimed term that holds a lot of power for many in the community. Queer occupies an identity space that allows for ambiguity and discovery - “I don’t know (or don’t want to specify) what I am with absolute certainty, but I know it’s not the normative cisgender heterosexual monogamous default.” Queerness is an expansive realm of self-determination for anyone who is not heterosexual and cisgender.

Gender Identity -- “Cis,” “Trans,” and “Nonbinary”¹



Transgender individuals are people whose gender identity differs from the one they were assigned at birth. Transgender people may have a binary “male” or “female” gender, a gender that blends the two, an absence of gender, or some gender entirely.

Nonbinary gender identities are distinct from intersex conditions, those whose bodies show a mix of typically “male” and “female” physical sex characteristics in anatomy, chromosomes, or hormones. Some intersex individuals may identify as transgender or nonbinary, but not all do.

Cisgender individuals have a gender identity that aligns with the one they were assigned at birth. “Cis” is not a slur, nor is it meant to demean those whom it describes. Rather, “cis” exists to help clarify and de-other transness by showing that all genders exist within a social framework and gender identity applies to everyone.

The use of the singular “they” to refer to individuals whose gender has not yet been disclosed can help to avert misgendering and create a safer environment for gender diverse people.

Missteps and Techniques for Repair



Everyone messes up terms and pronouns sometimes, even members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. When you make a mistake, stay calm. Apologize and repair quickly and respectfully.

- Apologize in a clear, sincere manner.
- Thank the person for taking the time to correct you.
- Listen to any clarifications or explanations they give- following the lead of the person will help you avoid missteps in the future.
- Don’t dwell on your mistakes or attempt to over-explain them in your apology.
- Use singular “they/them” pronouns to refer to individuals whose gender has not yet been disclosed.
- Recognize that feedback from marginalized people is a gift and an act of courage.

To view additional resources on this topic, click [HERE](#).

Works Cited

1. Barron, V. (2023, February 21). LGBTQ+. victoriabarron. <https://www.victoriabarron.com/lgbtq>
2. Glickman, C. (2012). Queer is a Verb. In T. Danesi, D. Dennis, & I. de Luna (Eds.), Momentum: Making Waves in Sexuality, Feminism, & Relationships Selected Essays by 2012 Speakers Advocating Change in Current Sexual Dialogues. essay, Tied Up Events LLC.
3. Keuroghlian, A. (2018). Suicide Risk and Prevention for LGBTQ People, Webinar for The Fenway Institute.
4. Mahrouse, G., Batrville, N., & Vallejo, F. (n.d.). bell hooks Tribute. Concordia University. <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/sdbi/about/history/bell-hooks-tribute.html>
5. Ranes, B. (2016) Research Update, Butler Center For Research, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.
6. Shaia, W., Avruch, D., Green, K., & Godsey, G. (2019). “Socially-Engineered Trauma and a New Social Work Pedagogy: Socioeducation as a Critical Foundation of Social Work Practice.” Smith College Studies in Social Work. 1-26. 10.1080/00377317.2019.1704146.



Central East (HHS Region 3)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration