



**Gender**

**American Samoa**

**10**



**Why focus on American Samoa?**



**1. At least 200 Samoans play football at the college or professional levels. That number is truly amazing, given that the entire population of American Samoa is about 65,000, hardly large enough to fill a Super Bowl stadium.**



**2.** Samoans recognize a third gender that they call fa'afafine, people not considered biologically female but who have taken on the “way of women” in dress, mannerism, appearance, and role.

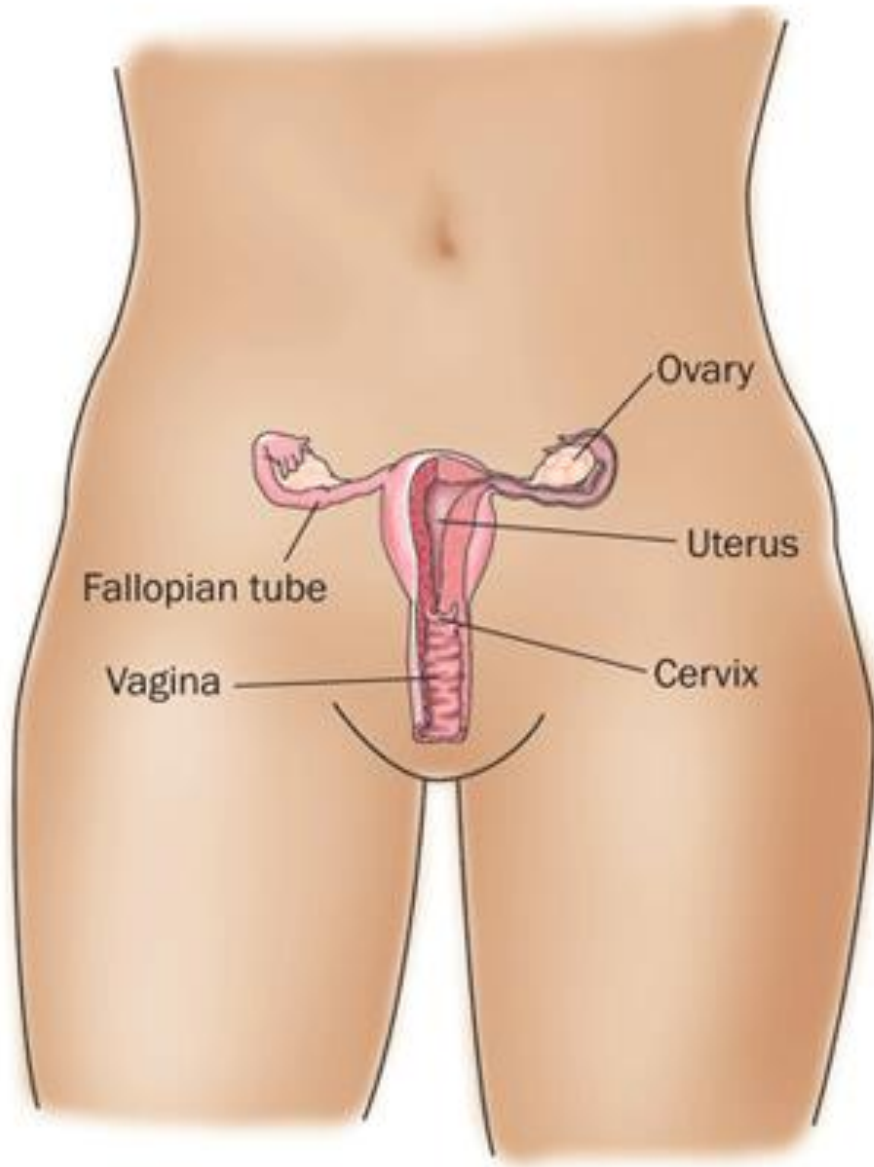


# SEX

A biological concept determined on the basis of **primary sex characteristics**.



Anatomical traits *essential* to reproduction.



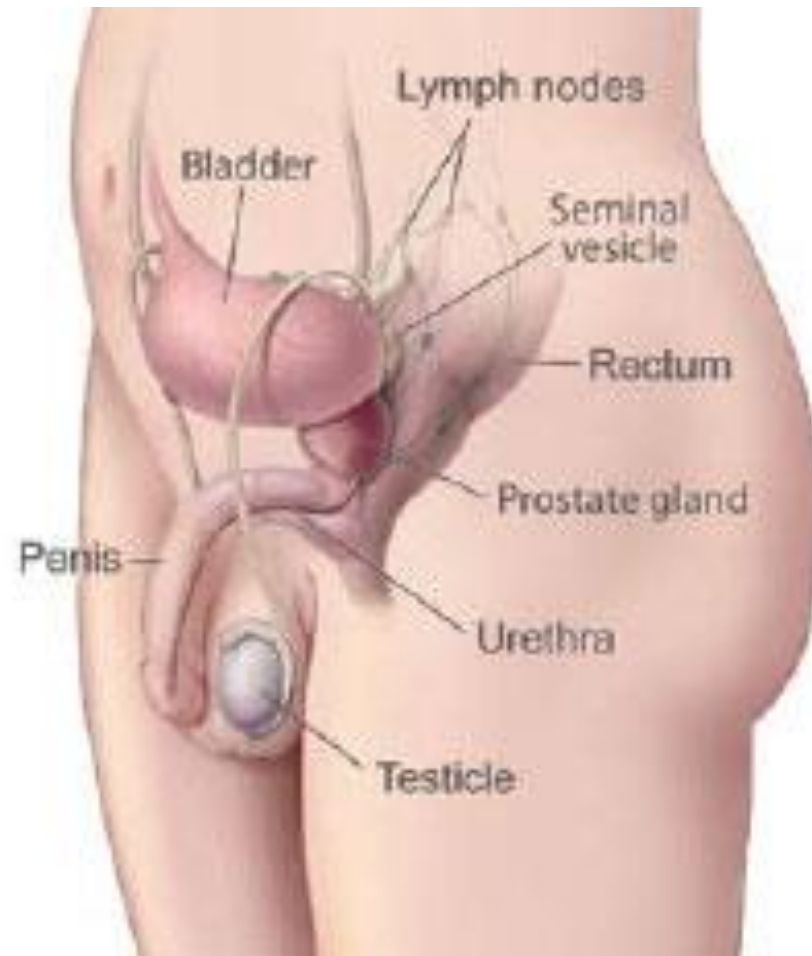
Ovary

Uterus

Fallopian tube

Cervix

Vagina





# GENDER

A social distinction based on culturally conceived and learned ideas about *appropriate*

➤ **Appearance**

➤ **Behavior**

➤ **Mental or emotional characteristics**

for males and females.







There are many ways in which we could categorize and label the world.

From: Categories and Sexuality by Charlene L. Muehlenhard

Once we have made up categories or concepts, it is easy to **reify** them.

That is, to treat them as real and universal and to forget that we made them up.

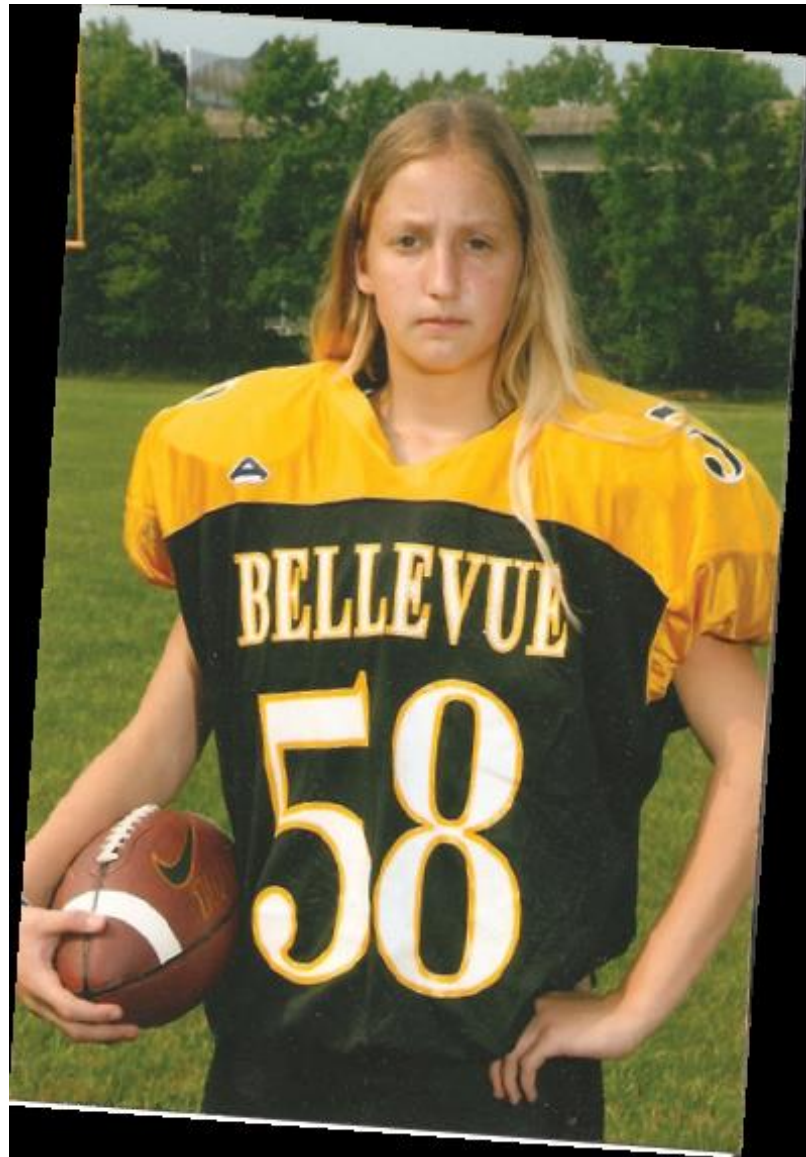
From: Categories and Sexuality by Charlene L. Muehlenhard

We treat categories as if they somehow exist inside of people rather than as labels made up to describe people, as if everyone had to fit into one of these categories, and if they do not, it reflects an aberration of the person rather than the arbitrariness of definitions.

From: Categories and Sexuality by Charlene L. Muehlenhard









# Masculinity

The physical, behavioral, and mental, or emotional traits ***believed*** to be characteristics of **males.**

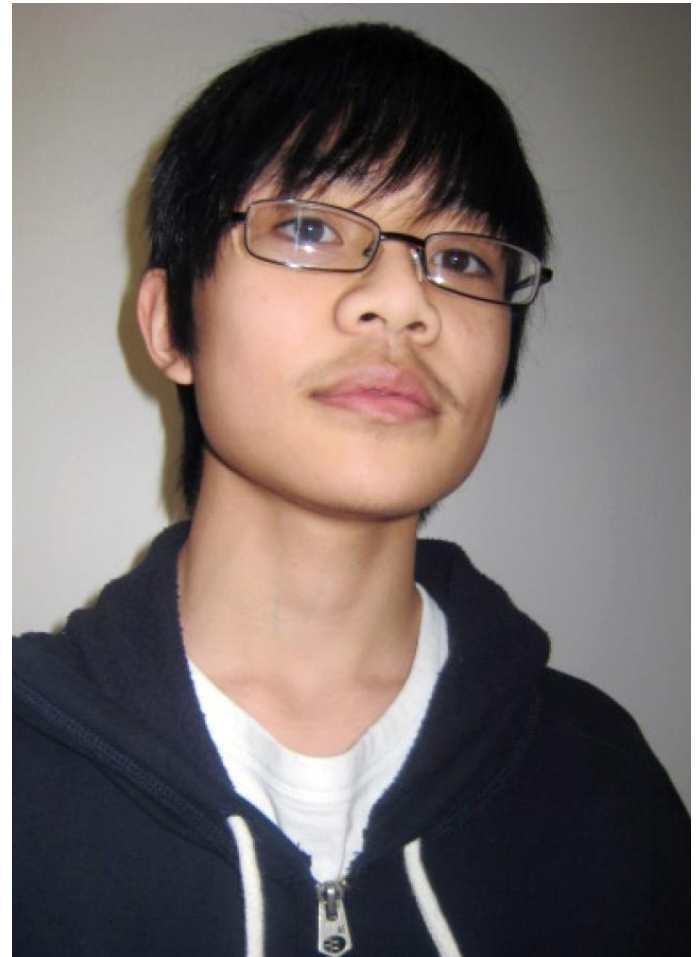
# Ideal

A socially constructed standard against which real cases can be compared

**Ideal**



**Real Case**





# Femininity

The physical, behavioral, and mental or emotional traits ***believed*** to be characteristics of **females.**

## Ideal



## Real Case



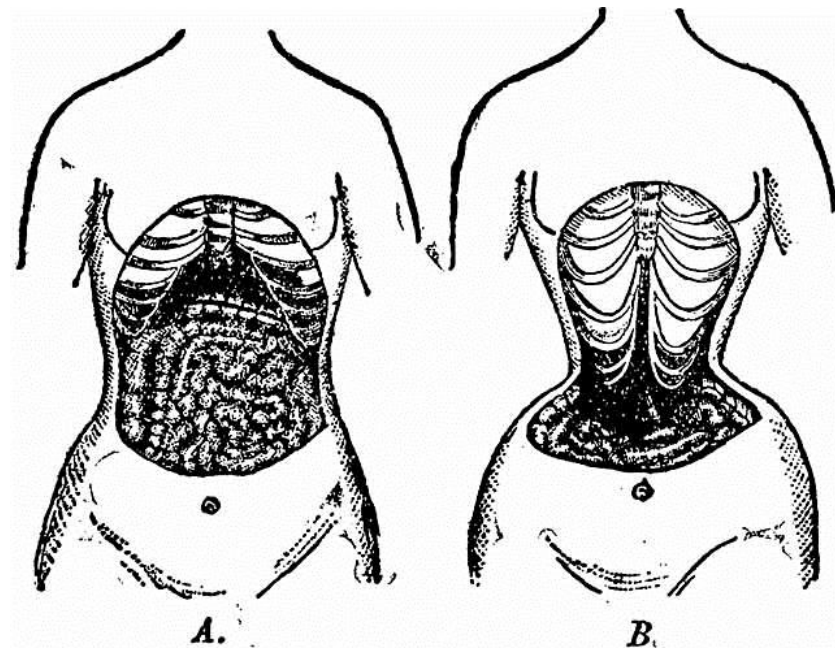
An unknown, but significant amount of observed differences between males and females is socially created.







There are many examples women  
mauling and manipulating their bodies  
—lips, eyes, ears, waists, skulls,  
foreheads, feet—in order to meets some  
ideal.



**A.**  
 lbs of large curve; the lungs large  
 my; the liver, stomach and bow-  
 their normal position; all with  
 nt room.

**B.**  
 The ribs bent almost to angles  
 lungs contracted; the liver, stomach  
 intestines forced down into the p  
 crowding the womb seriously.

*Nature versus Corsets, Illustrated.*



A "Lily Footed" Woman of China—this outrage against Nature has been in vogue 900 years.  
Copyright 1900 by Underwood & Underwood.



(2) A high caste Lady's dainty "Lily Feet"—as they really are—China.  
Copyright 1900 by Underwood & Underwood.



172. The so-called "Lily Feet" contrasted with the natural feet of Chinese women. Canton, China. Copyright 1902 by O. H. Graves







B 5493 Chinese Girl with Bound Feet. *Photo.* San Francisco, Cal.

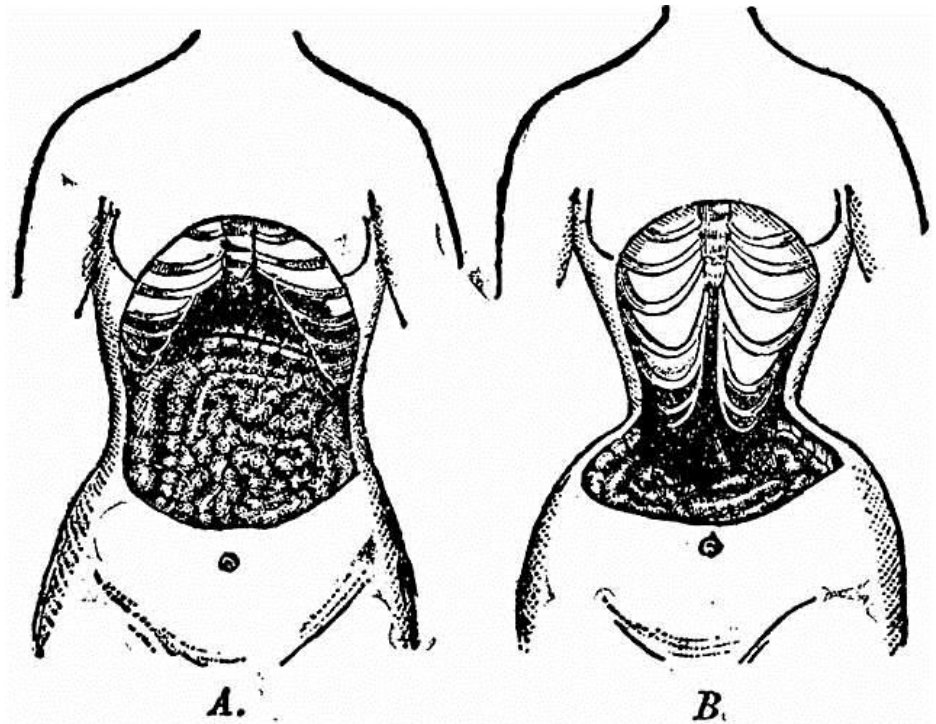




Child with Lotus shoes is carried across a cobble-  
led San Francisco street about 1900.



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It makes no sense to ask what categories really mean.

- Masculine
- Feminine
- Male
- Female

It does make sense to ask:

- How do most people define these words?
- What are other definitions?
- What are the economic implications of various definitions?
- What are political implications of the definitions?
- Who benefits from the definitions?