



GENDER

What is Gender?

GENDER IDENTITY

Gender Identity is Intensely Personal

Gender Identity is an individual's concept of self. This can be within the gender binary spectrum or it can be or can become fluid throughout and beyond it. It does not necessarily correlate with the sex assigned to any given person at birth. Gender varies from culture to culture and has evolved in definition over thousands of years.



GENDER EXPRESSION

Gender Expression is a Form of Communication

Gender Expression is how an individual will choose to communicate their gender identity. This can be done through behavior, mannerisms, style of dress, or pronouns.



GENDER PERFORMANCE

Identity VS Performance

An individual may not feel comfortable or safe expressing themselves that align with their gender identity. Gender Performance refers to characteristics or dress an individual may embody to portray a specific gender. Essentially, they are choosing to "act out" their roles as either a woman or a man, dictated by cultural norms regarding femininity and masculinity.



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

We are not asking anyone to become instant experts on gender identities or the gender binary; what we do expect is for our community members to respect all diverse groups of people. This starts with learning and choosing to educate ourselves. Together we can create a safe and equitable academic community.

