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Picture by Monica Mark

OUTING

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One is outed when someone reveals publicly his or her sexuality or gender identity, typically without clear person's consent. As you see, to out someone is not a cool thing to do (not at all). Basically, outing is an involuntary coming out and can hurt an outed person a lot. In a wider sense, one can be outed not only as a lesbian or trans* person, for example, but also as a feminist.

Free

Coming Out

Dictionary

COLONIALISM

11

How is that relevant? Very much! Colonizing continents, Europeans brought there their morals and norms regarding gender and sexual behavior. Those morals, repressive for traditional local queer communities, were codified as laws in many places. For example, India inherits its law criminalizing hijras (see entry 7) from the times of British rule. Now many local politicians, seeking to justify violence against queer communities, portray recent colonial morals as "traditional values" of the respective country.

INTERSEX

12

Intersex challenges our human specie's fantasy about everyone in the world being born either biologically male or biologically female. In fact, bodies of quite a considerable amount of newborns do not fit into human-made definition of male and female (one in 100 births, according to Intersex Society of North America).

For example, their genitalia might be rather male, but internal reproductive system rather female, or vice versa. Intersexual variations may also occur in chromosomes or hormones.

But after all, humans decide what counts as male, female or intersex body. Those are doctors who decide how small a penis should be or how big a clitoris should be to ascribe a child as intersex. A lot of intersex babies experience harmful "normalizing" surgery very early in their life, when they cannot make a decision yet. Often these surgeries are not aimed to help a baby to grow up healthier, just to look more conventional.



DISCLAIMER

Our Free Coming Out Dictionary is by no means a comprehensive and all-inclusive guide. It is rather a random set of entries about (important) things related to the queer facets of the world. All we want is to show a little tiny piece of a huge, sparkling and magnificent queer universe.



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What are these white spots on the map of Africa in 1913? Oh right, these are only places which haven't been colonized by Europeans.

'YAN-DAUDU

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'Yan-daudus are members of a "queer" community in North Nigeria. They are assigned as male at birth and typically perform "women's work" (such as cooking), walk in a "women's way" and can do sex work to earn some money, often in order to support their wives and kids. Even though an important part of being 'yan-daudu is maintaining homosexual and homoerotic relationships, they do not necessarily identify as gay.



PINKWASHING

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It is a PR-strategy of some states seeking to distract attention from human rights violations through selling itself as a "gay heaven". Israel is especially famous for its commitment to pinkwashing. The story goes like following: everyone is called to look at how the particular nation-state is non-discriminatory towards (white) gay people, and, therefore progressive, civilized and generally good.

At the same time, however, this very same "good state" is committed to hard-core Islamophobia and racism. Discrimination against Muslims is justified in the same line of argument: well, don't you know how backward and homophobic they are?

You shouldn't be deceived by this. In fact, states that practice pinkwashing don't care about Muslim gay people. Did you hear the story about Israel blackmailing gay Palestinians and threatening to out them if they refuse to be Israeli informants? Yes, "gay heaven" states do that.

Free Coming Out Reminder:

If someone comes out to you, all you need to think is "okay, I got it". Don't question other people's identity only because you cannot relate to what they feel like! And no one is obliged to explain themselves to others. If you don't want to discuss your identity, that's your right to avoid this kind of conversation.

Happy Coming Out Week!

Join us for coming out events:
Everyday Oct 6-10, lunch break, Octagon Come Out as an Ally: have your photo made with a message you believe in
Monday, Oct 6, 4.30pm Queering the Japanese garden with paint and brush
October 8-10, lunch break, Octagon Get some shine at our glitter corner
Thursday, Oct 9, 5.30 pm, 609 FT Southern Comfort documentary screening and discussion with Transvanilla activist
Friday, Oct 10, 5.30 pm, Oktober 6, 234 Student roundtable discussion on coming out experiences



Have you seen them really kissing, like, EVER?!

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ASEXUALITY

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Asexual people are those who generally don't have sexual attraction to others. At the same time, they might have sex because of other reasons, for example, to sustain relationship with their non-asexual partner or because they "have to". Asexuality does not mean people don't have romantic feelings to others. Sometimes they do fall in love, commit and have children. Yes, sometimes with people of the same gender (did you assume something else? See entry 1).

CHOSEN FAMILY

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These are those people who are not related biologically or through the institution of marriage, but nonetheless are family. People within the chosen family make a choice to be an intimate part of each other's life. The idea of chosen family is very important for queer people who might not have possibility or desire to legally marry their partner(s) and have kids together. Chosen family might include romantic partners, friends, co-workers, community etc.

HETERO-NORMATIVITY

1

Heteronormative society assumes that all people are straight by default. From heteronormative perspective, sex, gender and sexuality are given and constitute an obvious set. In other words, people who are assigned as female at birth are pressured to be woman, behave in a feminine way, fall in love with a masculine man ((assigned as male at birth) and reproduce in a bedroom of their nice middle-class house.

CIS-GENDER

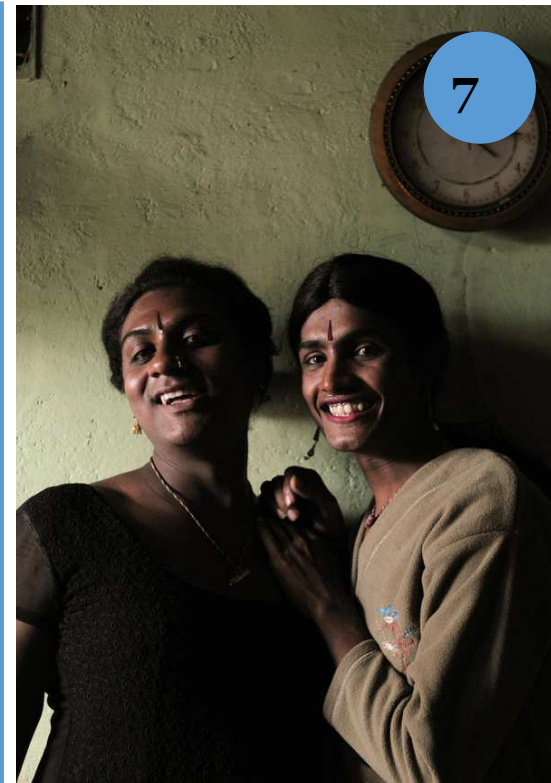
3

Or just "cis-". That's simple. Cis-people are those whose gender identification coincides with how their bodies look like and what sex they were assigned at birth. So cis-man is a man with a penis about whom doctors said "It is a boy!" when he appeared from mother's uterus. Cis-people have a lot of privileges in contemporary society. Like A LOT. See also "transphobia".

HIJRAS

7

It is a centuries-old queer community in South Asia. Hijras challenge gender binary. Typically hijras are assigned as male at birth, but they might identify as male, female or, very often, neither of them. Supreme Court in India recently legally recognized hijras as belonging to the "third gender". Hijras frequently face violence, often perpetrated by the police. But they are also believed to have special spiritual power and welcome at many traditional ceremonies, such as weddings.



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HOMO-NORMATIVITY

2

It's a sibling of heteronormativity with the difference that in this worldview existence of gay people is accepted. Homonormativity defines strictly who is a "proper" gay and who is not. "Proper" gays are expected to melt into "normal", straight society. Manifestations of their sexuality are tolerated only if it is hidden in their bedroom. "Good" gays are supposed to focus on consumption of gay upper-middle-class-priced products, and not on challenging gender order.

TRANS*

4

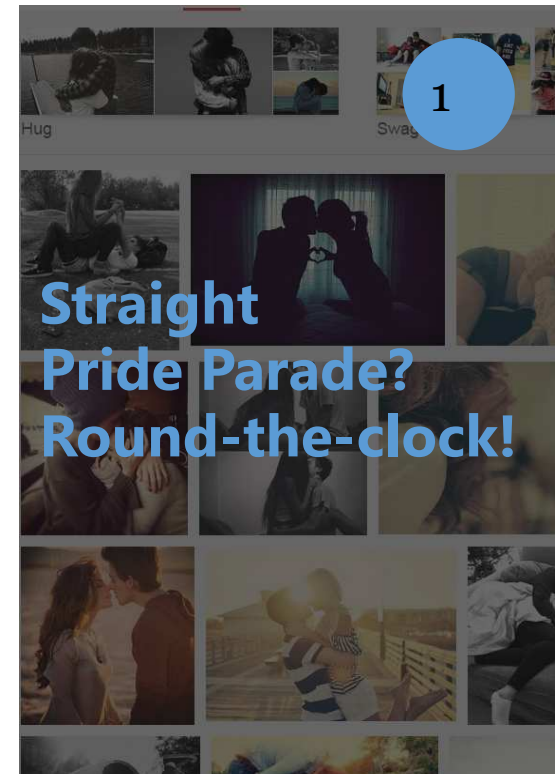
Trans- is as a category for various gender expressions which are not cis- (see entry 3). So a person who was "born male" might feel she is a woman. But it's not always about binary. Trans-people may feel they belong to neither male nor female category, or that they belong to both, or different in different times (see "hijra"). And it has nothing to do with sexual orientation. Trans-people might easily identify as gay or straight or bisexual or something else.



SEXUAL IDENTITY AND SEXUAL CONDUCT

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The important thing to remember about it is that these are two different things. A man can identify as a gay and still have sex with women. A woman can identify as bisexual, but never really date other women. It does not mean they are wrong about how they identify. It just means that our desires do not always coincide with our behavior, and it's ok.



Straight Pride Parade? Round-the-clock!

1

TRANSPHOBIA

5

The main thing to know about transphobia is that it actually kills. It is said that in average one trans-person is killed every 3 days only because they are trans. Don't make transphobic jokes or comments. If you filled out an application form for CEU and after a while someone asks if something changed in your profile—like last name, or gender, — and you find the question hilarious, it's definitely time to reflect upon your biases.

MATI WORK

8

Mati work is sexual, intimate relationship, very popular among working-class Suriname women, which cannot be fully understood in the framework of Western LGBTIQ vocabulary. It is often non-egalitarian relationship; for example, one of the partners might be considerably older than the other. Women engaged in mati work often have husband or male partner and children; they also help their female partners with raising kids and running a household.



Chosen family. Picture from Carter Steinmann's blog

