

STATE of the UNION

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars and red and white horizontal stripes.

GENDER IDENTIFICATION

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Gender Identification

State of the Union on Gender Inequality

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You are here

Join Google+ by creating your profile



Add your photo
Help your friends recognize you.

Name

Aliya

Saperstein

Please select your gender.

Gender

Male

Female

Other

Nepal's 'third gender'

The country is a pioneer in rights for gender and sexual minorities, but many continue to face marginalisation.

RELATED KEYWORDS: Sahodari-Foundation | Naz-Foundation

First count of third gender in census:

Rema Nagarajan, TNN | May 30, 2014, 01:45AM IST

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There is finally an official count of the third gender in the country — 4.9 lakh. While transgender activists estimate the numbers to be six to seven times higher, they are thrilled that such a large number of people identified themselves as belonging to the third gender, despite the fact that the census counting happened well before the Supreme Court order gave legal recognition to the third gender in April this year.

Of the total number of transgenders identified by almost 55,000 are in the 0-6 population. This has surprised the community as they did not expect parents to identify their children as belonging to gender.

"After the disappointment of the election commission..."

Gender Custom

Gender

Gender Fluid

Gender Variant

Genderqueer

Gender Questioning

Gender Nonconforming

Agender

Bigender

Cisgender

Cisgender Female

Cisgender Male

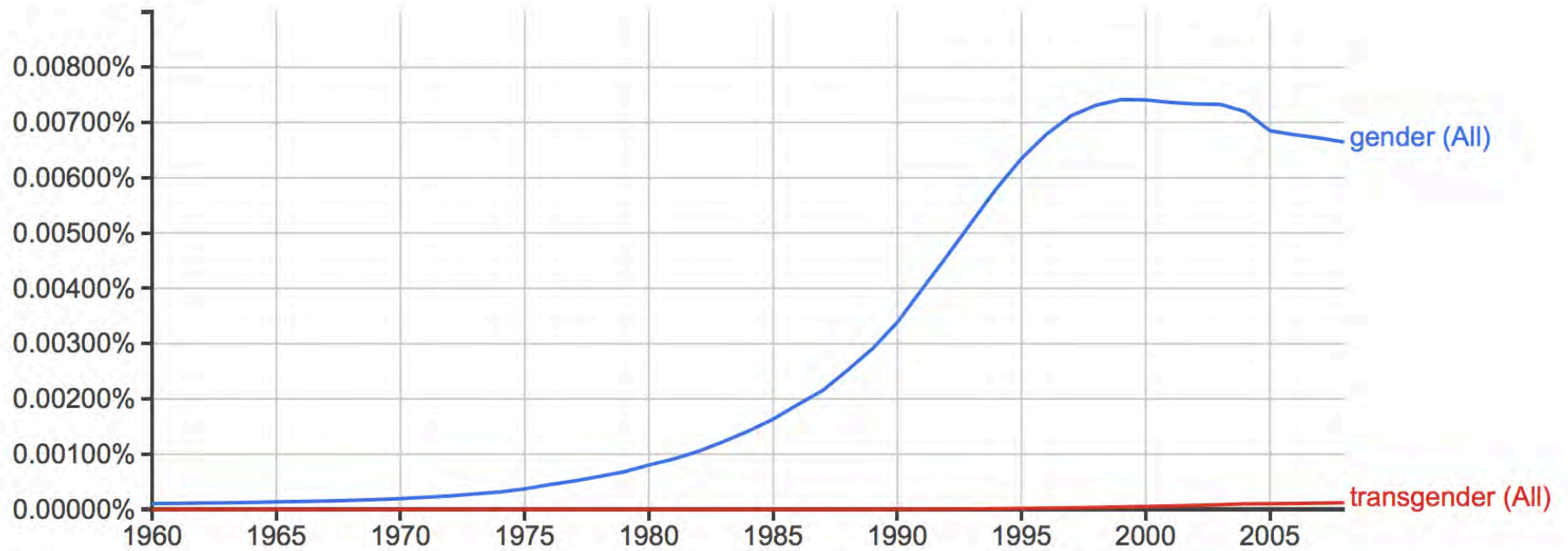
Women Men

Facebook now offers more than 50 custom gender identifiers, but the only way to see the options is via a drop-down autocomplete menu.



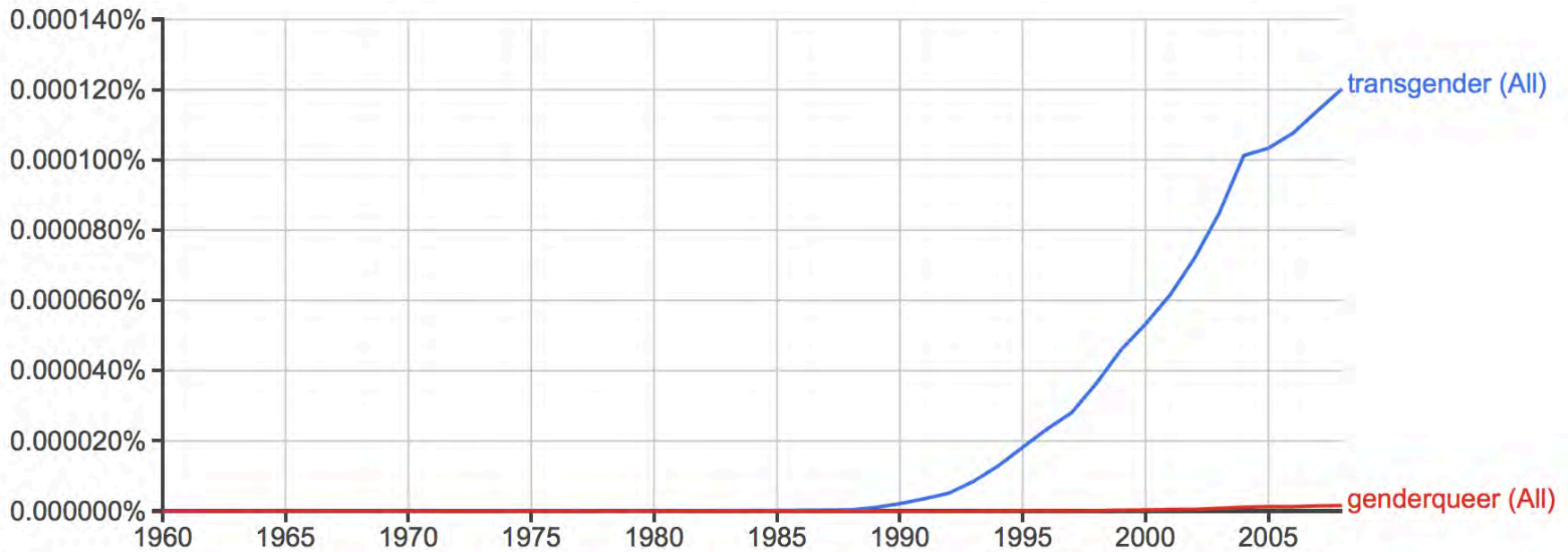
Bishwa is one of the few transgender Nepalis given an ID with the new, 'other' category [Angel L. Martinez/Al Jazeera]

Which genders count?




Source: Google Ngram

Gender was a child of the 1970s



Source: Google Ngram

***Transgender* emerged in the 1990s**



Sex	Gender
Female	Woman
Male	Man

Conceptual distinctions

SEX: Categorical (Single)

SELECT GENDER OF CHOSEN RESPONDENT.

Categories:

{male}

{female}

MALE

FEMALE

Source: General Social Survey


Conflating sex and gender



As late as 2014, the largest and longest running surveys in the United States:

- Categorized people by either sex or gender, not both
- Did not allow for categories other than female or male
- Rarely asked respondents to self-identify
- Assumed sex/gender should be “obvious”
- Treated it as an “error” when someone’s sex/gender changed over time

National surveys slow to change



Sex category	Gender identity
Female	Woman
Male	Man
Intersex	Transgender, non-binary

Moving beyond the binary

Sex at birth

What sex were you assigned at birth?
(For example, on your birth certificate.)


- Female
- Male
- Intersex

Categorical gender identification


What is your current gender?

- Woman
- Man
- Transgender
- A gender not listed here (please specify)

“Two-step” measurement approach

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- Estimates of the size of the U.S. transgender population range from 0.5% to 1.0%
 - Existing research tends to focus on health disparities but transgender adults also experience discrimination in housing and employment
 - Better understanding awaits incorporation of new measures across our national data systems

Increasing recognition



Sex category	Gender identity	Gender expression
Female	Woman	Feminine
Male	Man	Masculine
Intersex	Transgender, non-binary	Androgynous

Adding further complexity

First-order gender scale

In general, how do you see yourself? Please answer on both scales below.

	Not at all	1	2	3	4	5	Very
Feminine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Masculine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

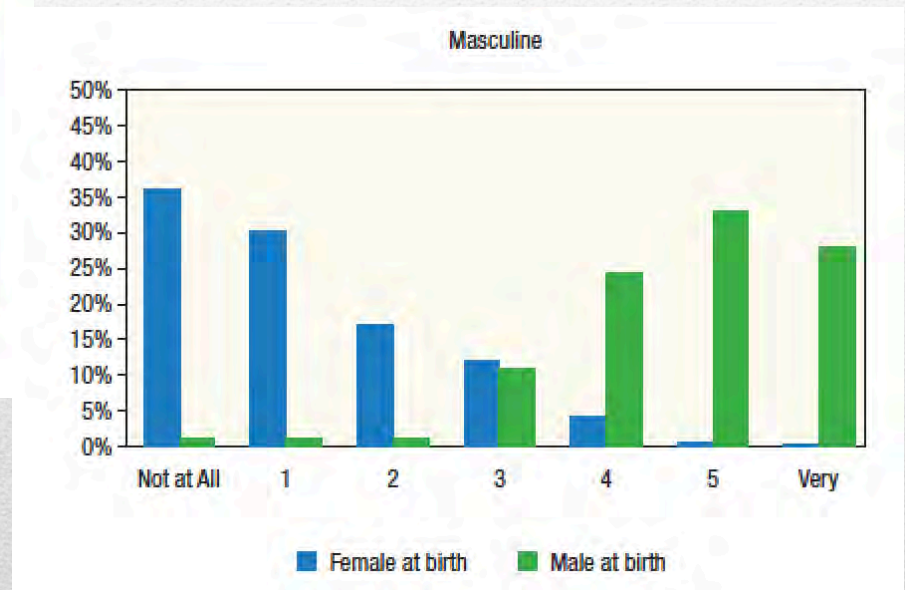
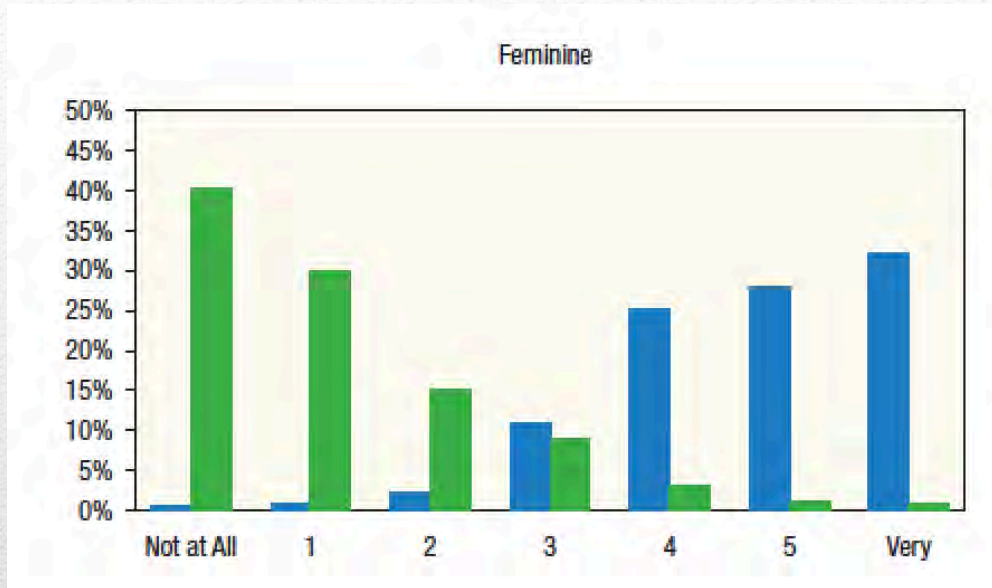
Third-order gender scale

In general, how do most people see you? Please answer on both scales below.

	Not at all	1	2	3	4	5	Very
Feminine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Masculine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Gender identification scales

Distribution of gender identification, by sex at birth



Diversity within categories

Gender polarization
 = |feminine scale –
 masculine scale|


Represents how scale
 responses correspond to
 traditional dichotomous
 measurement

Just 24% of sample
 answered “very” on
 one scale and “not
 at all” on the other

	% Very Polarized	N
Female at birth	23%	805
Male at birth	24%	717
Cisgender	24%	1,514
Transgender	13%	8
South	27%*	571
West	23%	374
Midwest	19%*	312
Northeast	24%	262
College degree	22%	883
No college degree	26%	639
Over 30	28%***	813
30 and younger	20%	709
Heterosexual or straight	26%***	1,375
Gay, lesbian, homosexual, or bisexual	4%	147
Hispanic origin	31%	110
White	22%**	1,237
Black or African American	49%***	101
All other responses	21%	184

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ (two-tailed tests)

Scales challenge dichotomy



Updating our national data systems recognizes diversity, and offers researchers the opportunity to ask and answer deeper questions about the sources of disparity:

- Not only distinguishing social from biological factors
- But also allowing a person's gender to explain and be explained by social inequality

Cause or consequence?

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Thank you!
