the Gender Binary

is the system of belief in only two genders.

www.thegenderbook.com

Public bathrooms, like driver’s licenses and census forms, present us with two options. You’re either male or female. In this system, your gender and sex are assumed to be the same thing. However, this isn’t always true for gender minorities or intersex folks.

GENDER SCALES

are what most psychologists use when measuring gender. In this system, masculinity and femininity are independent. You can be high in masculine qualities and feminine qualities at the same time, low in both, or any combination.

Some see gender as a horseshoe, where the conforming (masculine and feminine) genders have more in common with each other than with the nonconforming possibilities.

Others create colorful gender diagrams. None of these are right or wrong, but different ways to look at the same concepts. Let’s consider how inclusive each system is to gender minorities.

GENDER SPECTRUM

imagines infinite genders ranging from the very masculine to the very feminine. This gives more than two options, but is still pretty one-dimensional.

Try imagining gender as a 3D space. What would your dimensions be?

masculine

feminine