

NAME: Davide

SURNAME: D'Ettore

INSTITUTION : Department of Psychology, University of Florence, Italy

TOPICS: Aspects of Identity; Sexuality

Postal Address:

Department of Psychology - University of Firenze
via di San Salvi 12, Complesso di San Salvi Padiglione 26
50135 Firenze.

Italy

e-mail: davide.dettore@unifi.it

GENDER IDENTITY VARIANCE: A COGNITIVE APPROACH

Abstract

Gender development is a very complex process, founded on several different factors, that interact to structure the equally complex whole of schematic elements of gender identity, not necessarily limited to the dichotomous categories of male/female.

Within a cognitive perspective, gender identity is more understandable in terms of a "Self System", that can be considered as a control cognitive system, formed by a "master self" in communication and association with a series of subordinated subsystems, each operating in parallel in relation to the others and each relatively autonomous and independent, that are influenced by the master self and influence it. Gender identity could be considered as one of these subordinated systems.

From this viewpoint, the author hypothesizes that gender identity could be understood as a partial aggregate, a subsystem, in relation to the Self System, composed by a more or less relevant number of self versions, associated to the several and different aspects and components of sexual characterization. Such a hypothesis will be discussed in relation to its scientific evidences and atypical gender organizations.