

The HBO Documentary “Middle sexes: Redefining “he and she” (available in this week's multimedia folder) is a groundbreaking overview of what life is potentially like for individuals living outside the safety net of being biologically male and female both here in the United States and internationally.

The age-old debate as to whether people choose or are naturally inclined to have same-sex or heterosexual desires continue to this day. That debate is not the basis of this discussion forum. What I want to address and base our discussions on are the most up to date facts presented to us through the literature and the stories told to us in the documentary from the mouths of those living in this existence. A baseline estimate suggests the number of individuals born as intersex (the politically and biologically correct word as opposed to hermaphrodite) is around 1.7% percent of the population (Fausto-Sterling, 2000). The Intersex Society of North America reports 1 out of every 1,500 to 2,000 live births (2008) results in an intersex combination of some sort. These estimates can go up or down depending on who is making the determination and whether all conditions or some conditions are included in the definition. The numbers also will change if we extend our view to beyond the visible anatomy to the less visible conditions of the brain and emotions.

After having read your required materials for this week and watched the documentary, please address the following questions:

1. Identify two locations in the documentary and briefly discuss how gender is viewed in those two locations as based on its culture.
2. How might these socially-mediated views influence and/or shape sexual/gender development across the lifespan in each location (Be sure to include literature-supported developmental characteristics to support your answer)?
3. Which influence on gender development "explanation" as indicated in your textbook might best explain factors impacting sexual development for the locations you've identified above?

Required APA Discussion Format (to be done for every discussion board unless stated otherwise)

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1. You must include in-text APA citations IN your discussion (these are called in-text citations, see syllabus for examples).
2. At the bottom of your discussion, you will space down twice and type REFERENCES. Underneath the phrase REFERENCES, you will list no less than two references (one should be your textbook and the other should be a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal article) that match the in-text citations IN your initial discussion post. Make sure references and citations you are using in this discussion are honest, accurate descriptions of information you are actually using for source information.
3. Be sure to respond to at least 2 of your classmates no later than Friday of this week.
4. You will use academic language as well as proper spelling and complete sentence structure.