

On the Nature and Amelioration of Gender Dysphoria

Alley Stoughton
Kansas State University

“Extremism and the Excluded Middle”
The 17th Annual Cultural Studies Conference
Kansas State University
March 7, 2008

Full Paper:

<http://people.cis.ksu.edu/~stough/cultural/>

Sex

A **sex** is the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes,
- gonads,
- internal and external genitalia,
- sex hormonal systems,
- secondary sex characteristics, and
- brain structure as influenced by prenatal sex hormones.

Sex

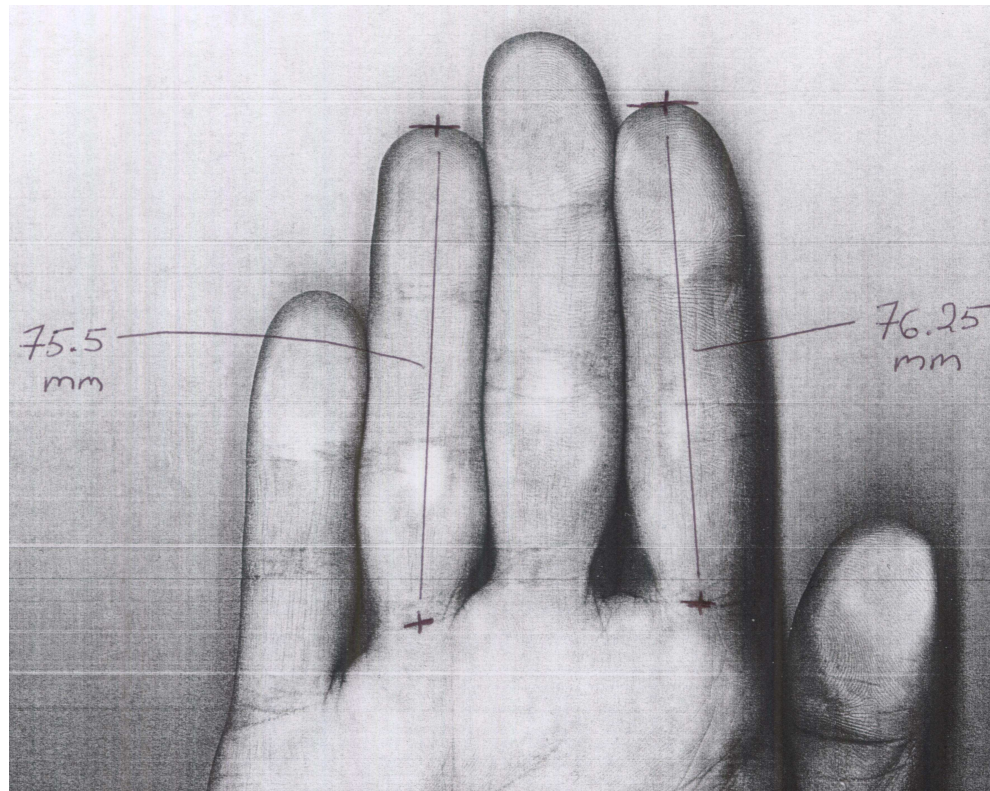
A *sex* is the aggregate of a person's:

- sex chromosomes,
- gonads,
- internal and external genitalia,
- sex hormonal systems,
- secondary sex characteristics, and
- brain structure as influenced by prenatal sex hormones.

(I'm using *hir*, pronounced "hear", as a gender-neutral pronoun replacing him/her.)

Finger-length Ratios

A *finger-length* ratio is computed by dividing the length (tip to bottom of crease) of the index finger by the length of the ring finger.



In this example, showing the right hand of a male-to-female transsexual, we get $76.25/75.5 = 1.01$, which is significantly above the female average of 0.97 .

Gender

A *gender* is an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,
- conversational style,
- body language,
- dress style, etc.

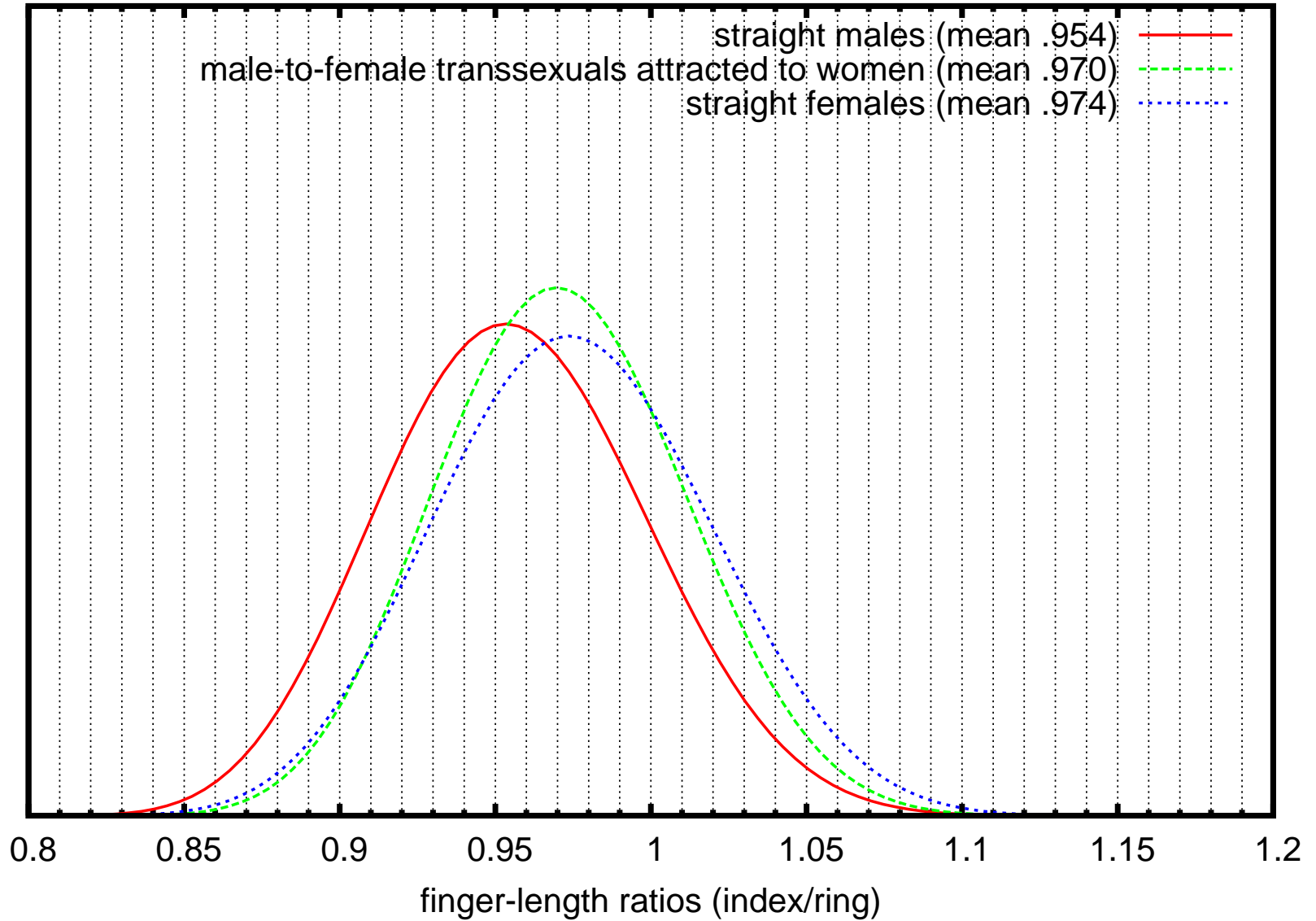
Gender

A *gender* is an aggregate of the behavioral, cultural and psychological traits that shape social relationships, e.g.:

- aggressiveness,
- emotionality,
- tendency to be nurturing,
- risk aversion,
- conversational style,
- body language,
- dress style, etc.

(I'm using *sie*, pronounced "see", as a gender-neutral pronoun replacing he/she.)

Finger-length Ratios for Transsexuals and Controls



Gender Dysphoria and Transsexualism

Gender dysphoria is discomfort stemming from an actual or perceived conflict between a person's

- gender identity,
- attributed gender and
- attributed/assigned sex.

Transsexualism is gender dysphoria, coupled with a desire/plan to make physical and/or social changes to ameliorate that dysphoria.