

# SEMINAR ON SEXUAL APOLOGETICS

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STEVE WILLING

# AGENDA

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- Introduction: The Top Ten Myths of the Sexual revolution
- Week 2: Why sexual apologetics? The state of the Church
- Week 3: Defending Biblical sexuality to professing believers
- Week 4: Scientific basis for the Genesis paradigm (recorded)
- Week 5: Victims of the sexual revolution
- Week 6: Homosexuality
- **Week 7: Transgenderism**
- Week 8: How we got here, where we're headed, what we can do

# RESOURCES

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- Weekly notes and PowerPoint at [www.swilling.com](http://www.swilling.com)
- Contact: [steve@willing.org](mailto:steve@willing.org)

# TRANSGENDER CONTROVERSIES

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- How to perceive
- How to treat
- Public policy

# BIBLICAL ASPECTS

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- Creation mandate
- Beliefs attached to transgenderism are metaphysical claims
- Commands to pursue truth, humility, justice, and mercy
- Apologetic significance



# MORAL RAMIFICATIONS

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- Biblical injunctions against “gender bending” Deuteronomy 22:5,
- Irreversible harm to children
- Physical injury to adults: do benefits justify the harm?

# KEY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO TRANSGENDERISM

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1. What is it?
2. What does it claim?
3. What does the science show?
4. Is there a social contagion?
5. What is best for young people with gender identity confusion?

# I.WHAT IS IT?

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- Biological disorder?
- Mental disorder?
- Moral disorder?
- Reality?
- Best understood as a mental disorder with metaphysical claims



# TRANSGENDERISM

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- Definitions
- Demographics
- Is it healthy or unhealthy?
- What are the moral ramifications?

# TRANSGENDER TERMINOLOGY

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- Aka Transsexual
- Transwoman: MtF
- Trans-man: FtM
- Gender Identity Disorder (DSM-4)
- Gender Dysphoria (DSM-5, 2013)

# HISTORY

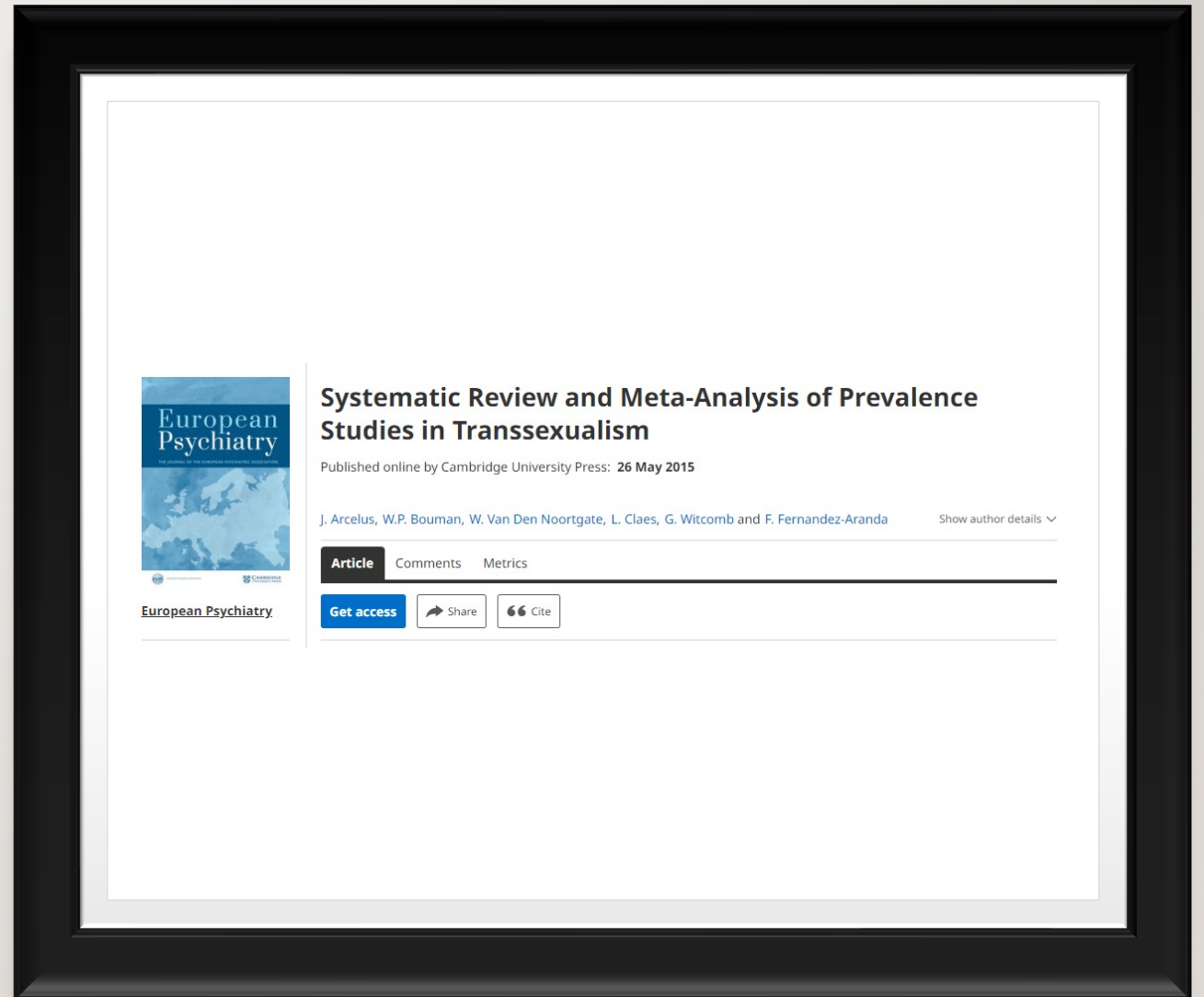
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- Very rare
- Mostly, post-adolescent male to female
- Skyrocketing numbers in last 10 years, all based on self-identification

# DEMOGRAPHICS

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- True incidence is rare:
  - 6.8 per 100,000 MtW
  - 2.6 per 100,000 WtM



The screenshot shows the article page for "Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Studies in Transsexualism" published in the journal "European Psychiatry". The article is published online by Cambridge University Press on 26 May 2015. The authors listed are J. Arcelus, W.P. Bouman, W. Van Den Noortgate, L. Claes, G. Witcomb, and F. Fernandez-Aranda. The page includes navigation tabs for "Article", "Comments", and "Metrics". Below these tabs are buttons for "Get access", "Share", and "Cite". The journal cover image on the left features the title "European Psychiatry" and a map of Europe.

# GALLUP 2020

Americans' Self-Identified Sexual Orientation, by Generation

	<b>Bisexual</b>	<b>Gay</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Transgender</b>	<b>Other</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Generation Z (born 1997-2002)	11.5	2.1	1.4	1.8	0.4
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	5.1	2.0	0.8	1.2	0.4
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.1
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.0
Traditionalists (born before 1946)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1

Figures represent the percentage of all adult members of each generation who have that sexual orientation

GALLUP, 2020



# BARNA 2021

**Self-descriptions**

	Gender		Age Group		Race/Ethnicity		
	Male	Female	18-24	25-37	White	Black	Hispanic
Deeply committed: practicing faith	57%	48%	47%	55%	51%	63%	52%
All religious faiths are of equal value	72%	75%	73%	74%	78%	64%	73%
Prefer socialism to capitalism	49%	46%	46%	49%	50%	49%	49%
Often anxious, depressed, or unsafe	41%	67%	59%	51%	56%	60%	49%
An American patriot	62%	49%	46%	60%	64%	43%	48%
LGBTQ	23%	36%	39%	25%	29%	37%	30%
Searching for your purpose in life	71%	79%	76%	74%	76%	79%	72%

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## 2. WHAT ARE ITS CLAIMS?

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- Assertion that gender is an ontological entity that can exist apart from the physical body
- Belief that the body should be altered to conform to the perceived gender
- Insistence that society writ large should accept the stated identity
- “Standard of care”

Ontology: the branch of metaphysics associated with the nature of being

# TRANSITIONING

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- Social affirmation
- Puberty blockers – off-label use of medications designed for Central Precocious Puberty
- Cross-sex hormones
- Sex “change” surgery



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# 3. WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SHOW?

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- Gender atypical as children
- About 90% of children are reconciled with biological sex as adults
- A majority, but not all, are functionally homosexual as adults
- Among males, a very diverse group
- How gender atypia is interpreted and expressed highly determined by culture

# SWEDEN

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- 324 sex reassignments 1973-2003
- Mortality 2.8x
- Suicide 19.1x
- Suicide attempts 4.9x
- Psychiatric inpatient care 2.8x
- “sex reassignment many not suffice as treatment for transsexualism”

# TORONTO 2020. 300 PATIENTS, *PEDIATRICS*

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- Youth  $\geq 15$ 
  - Depression 46%
  - Self harm 40%
  - Attempted suicide 17%
- Youth  $< 15$ 
  - Depression 30%
  - Self harm 28%
  - Attempted suicide 9%

# ITALY 2020

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- 87 patients tested with personality inventory and structured interview
- Not based on self-reporting
- Almost 50% with at least one personality disorder, equal between men and women
- Borderline PD most common



# CLAIMS OF BENEFIT

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- American Academy of Pediatrics in 2018 endorsed “gender affirmation” alone as treatment
- Blistering rebuttal by James Cantor pointed out that the sources they cited actually showed the opposite
- This has been a repeating pattern





# COMPLICATIONS OF TREATMENT

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- Permanent sterilization
- Mental illness
- Lifelong dependence on medication
- Medication side-effects
- Regret and detransition

# COMORBIDITIES

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- Mental illness

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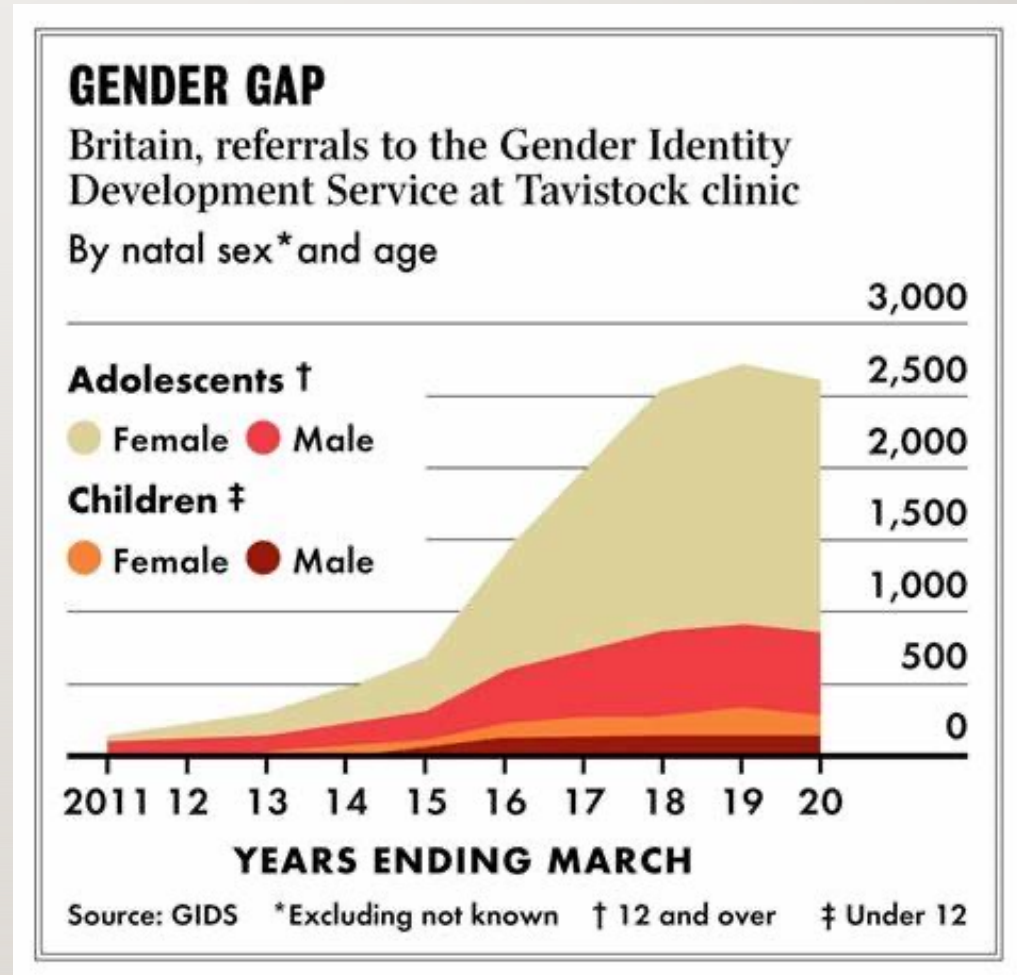
## 4. IS THERE A SOCIAL CONTAGION?





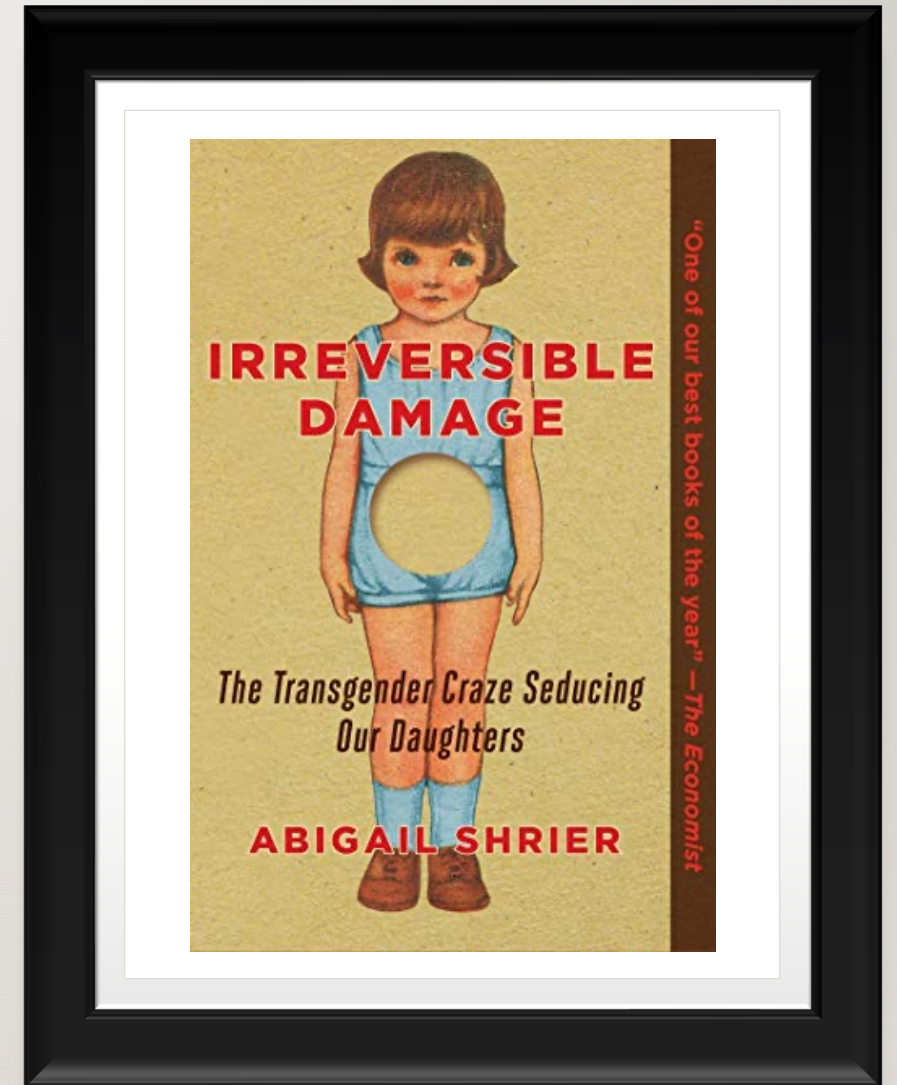
# RAPID ONSET GENDER DYSPHORIA

- Lisa Littman, PLOS, 2018:  
*Parent reports of adolescents and young adults perceived to show signs of a rapid onset of gender dysphoria.*
- Young teen females
- No previous history
- Active on social media





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- Abigail Shrier, 2020:  
*Irreversible Damage: the Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*



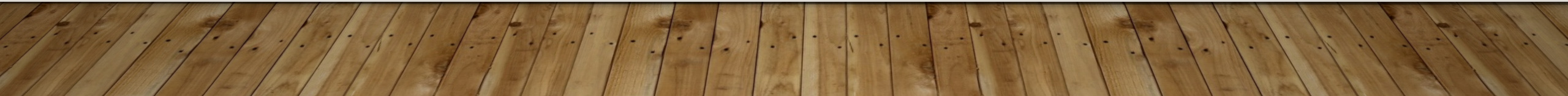
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## 5. WHAT IS BEST FOR THOSE AFFECTED?

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# HOW TO TREAT

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- “Gender Affirming”
  - Social acceptance
  - Medical
  - Surgical
- Does transitioning improve mental health?
- Closest medical analogue is cosmetic surgery
- Both hormones and surgery inflict irreversible bodily injury
- “Watchful waiting”



# RETREATING ON GENDER AFFIRMATION OF MINORS

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- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Finland
- France
- Norway

# CONCLUDING COMMENTS

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- No scientific basis for hypothesizing other genders or one can be wrongly “assigned”
- No reliable evidence in support of transitioning at any age
- Transitioning of minors inflicts known harm without proof of corresponding benefit
- The sexually broken need compassion and grace, not judgment and condemnation