HOMOSEXUALITY

DEFENDING BIBLICAL SEXUALITY, UNIT 5

AGENDA

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

RESOURCES

- Weekly notes and PowerPoint at www.swilling.com
- Contact: steve@willing.org

HOMOSEXUALITY: SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING

- What is it?
- How common is it?
- What causes it?
- Is it healthy or unhealthy?
- What are the moral ramifications?

WHAT IS IT?

- "Homosexual" coined by Karl Maria Kertbeny in 19th century
- Behavior? Identity? Attraction?
- Does not exist in original Biblical languages, but….
- Implies something more than men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Complex interplay of biological and cultural factors

HOW DO YOU DEFINE IT?

- Any same-sex experience?
- Exclusively same-sex experience?
- Self-identification?

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- FAR less common than most Americans believe
- 0.9% of females report exclusively same-sex experience
- 1.7% of males, which is the probable real incidence
- *Any* same sex experience: 8.7% females, 8.2% males
- So, 6.5% of males are either bisexual or otherwise malleable, 4x the number of exclusively homosexual
- Male vs female very different

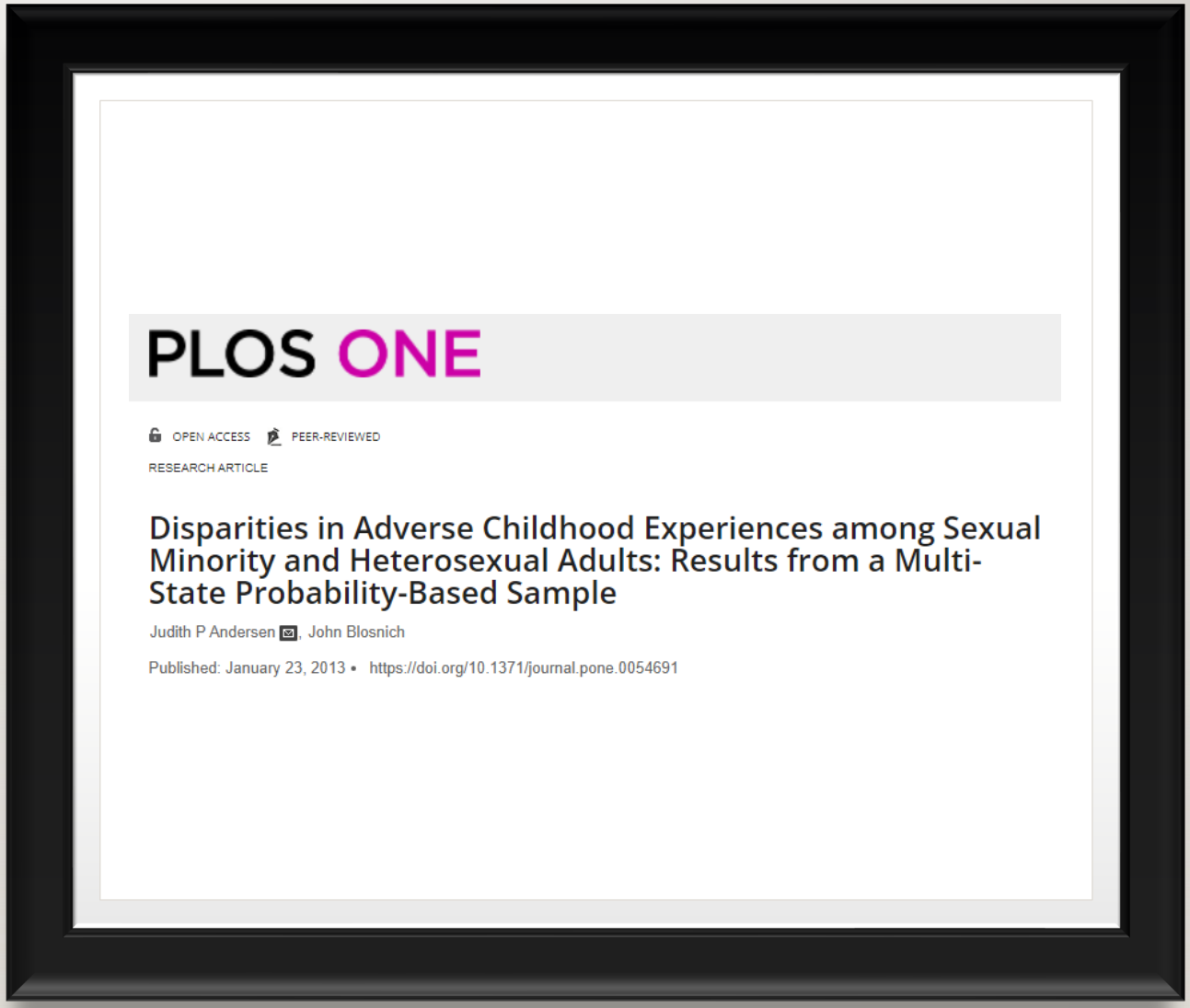
- Twenge, 2015

WHAT CAUSES IT?

- Both the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association affirm that the cause is unknown, but probably multifactorial
- 24% coincidence in identical twin pairs
- Possible birth order effect
- Correlations with childhood trauma, esp. sexual

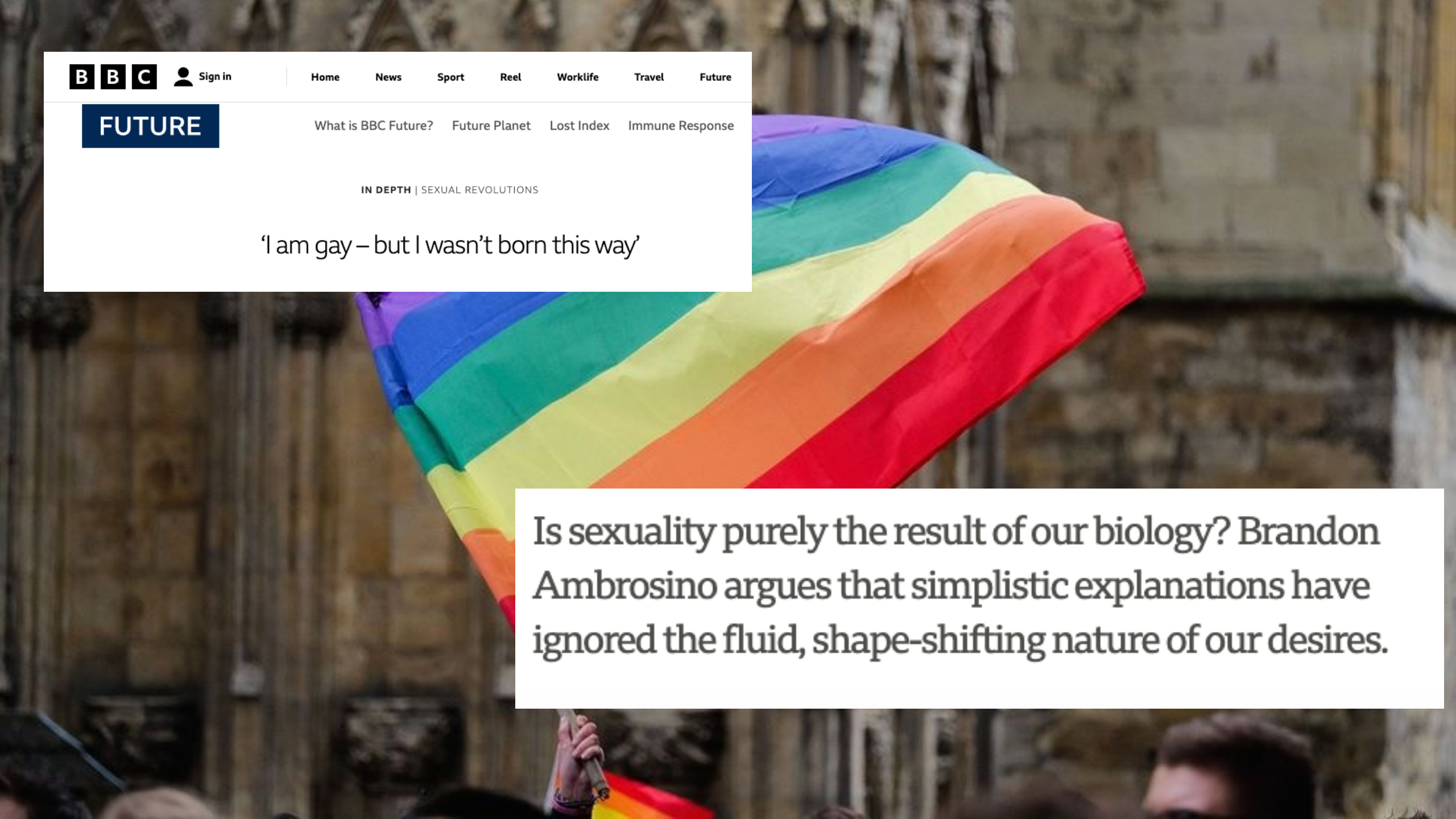
ANDERSON & BLOSNICH, 2013

- Childhood sexual assault in 76% of sexual minority women and 60% men.
- Both at least double incidence in heterosexuals
- Hypotheses differ as to which comes first
- Most who are abused do not become homosexual, not all homosexuals were abused.
- Does not prove causality, but it hasn't been refuted either



INNATE VS. SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED

- Some evidence that "gayness" is manifested in early childhood
- SSA likely derives from combination of genetic, developmental, and environmental factors (nature *and* nurture)
- Self-identification, comportment, behavior are largely determined by social expectations and mimickry



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FUTURE

What is BBC Future? Future Planet Lost Index Immune Response

IN DEPTH | SEXUAL REVOLUTIONS

‘I am gay – but I wasn’t born this way’

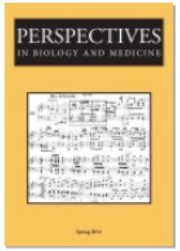
Is sexuality purely the result of our biology? Brandon Ambrosino argues that simplistic explanations have ignored the fluid, shape-shifting nature of our desires.

The Evolution of a Social Construction: The Case of Male Homosexuality

Pieter R. Adriaens, Andreas de Block

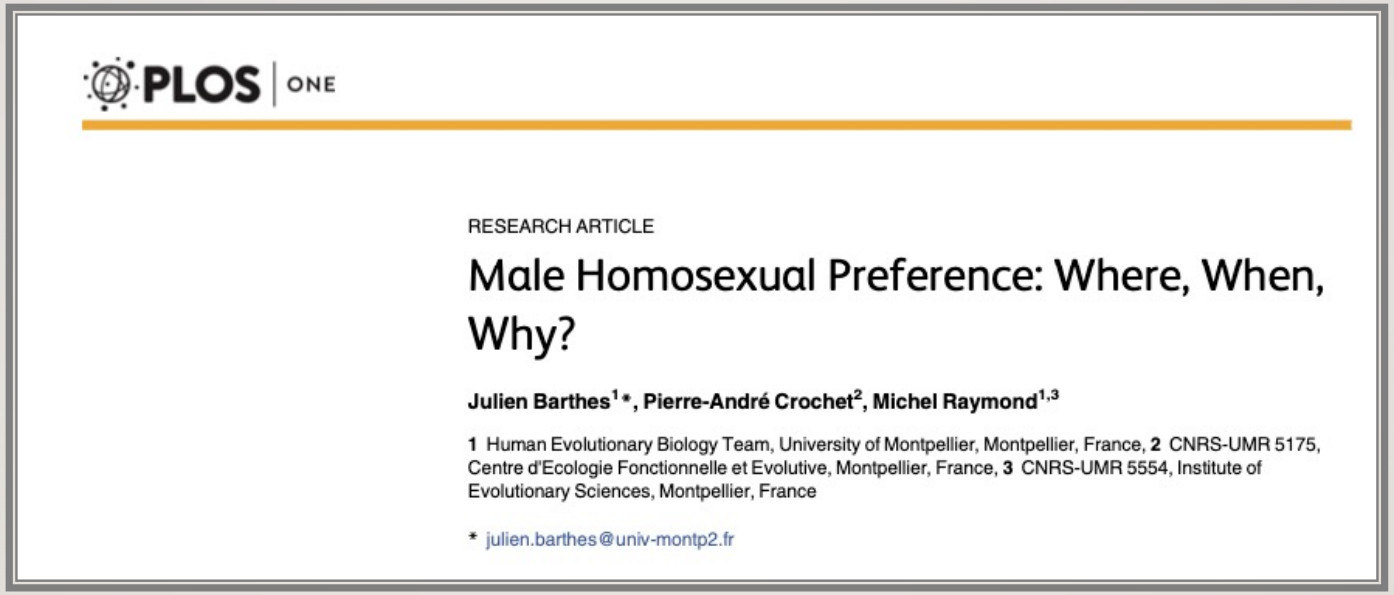
Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, Volume 49, Number 4, Autumn 2006, pp. 570-585 (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press
DOI: 10.1353/pbm.2006.0051



"***Homosexuality as we now know it is definitely a social construction***."

"Foucault (1978) has tried to explain the genesis of this exclusive kind of same-sex sexuality. According to him, historical changes in 18th-century politics, science, and philosophy led to the construction of a homosexual identity."



PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Male Homosexual Preference: Where, When, Why?

Julien Barthes[1]*, Pierre-André Crochet[2], Michel Raymond[1,3]

1 Human Evolutionary Biology Team, University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France, **2** CNRS-UMR 5175, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, Montpellier, France, **3** CNRS-UMR 5554, Institute of Evolutionary Sciences, Montpellier, France

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"Here we show that the commonly held view of the virtually universal presence of MHP since prehistoric time in human populations is not confirmed upon review of the cited data…. the substantial prevalence of MHP is most likely a recent phenomenon in humans and much remains to be understood.

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

- Homosexuality, as currently understood, is almost certainly a social construct unknown prior to 1700
- Transgenderism is of more recent invention but is almost certainly a social construct as well.
- Identity based on a social construct can feel very real, and be perceived as innate

IS IT IMMUTABLE?

- A high percentage of adolescents reporting SSA initially change with maturation
- "Reported sexual identity, attraction, and behavior have been shown to change substantially across adolescence and young adulthood" *Ott et al, J Adolesc Health, 2012*
- "Several such studies have now been completed, and they unequivocally demonstrate that same-sex and other-sex attractions do change over time in some individuals" *Diamond, 2016. J Sex Research*

OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE FACTS:

- Masculinity and femininity occur along a continuum, modified by both biology and environment
- Gender nonconformity in childhood more common among SSA, but most gender-nonconforming children grow up straight.
- Possibly, a small percentage of adults never experience sexual attraction to the opposite sex – but this is very difficult to prove.
- The brain is highly malleable, so identifying with a social construct can make it seem very real
- Same-sex intercourse has been common throughout history, but exclusive SSA is rare.

OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE NON-FACTS:

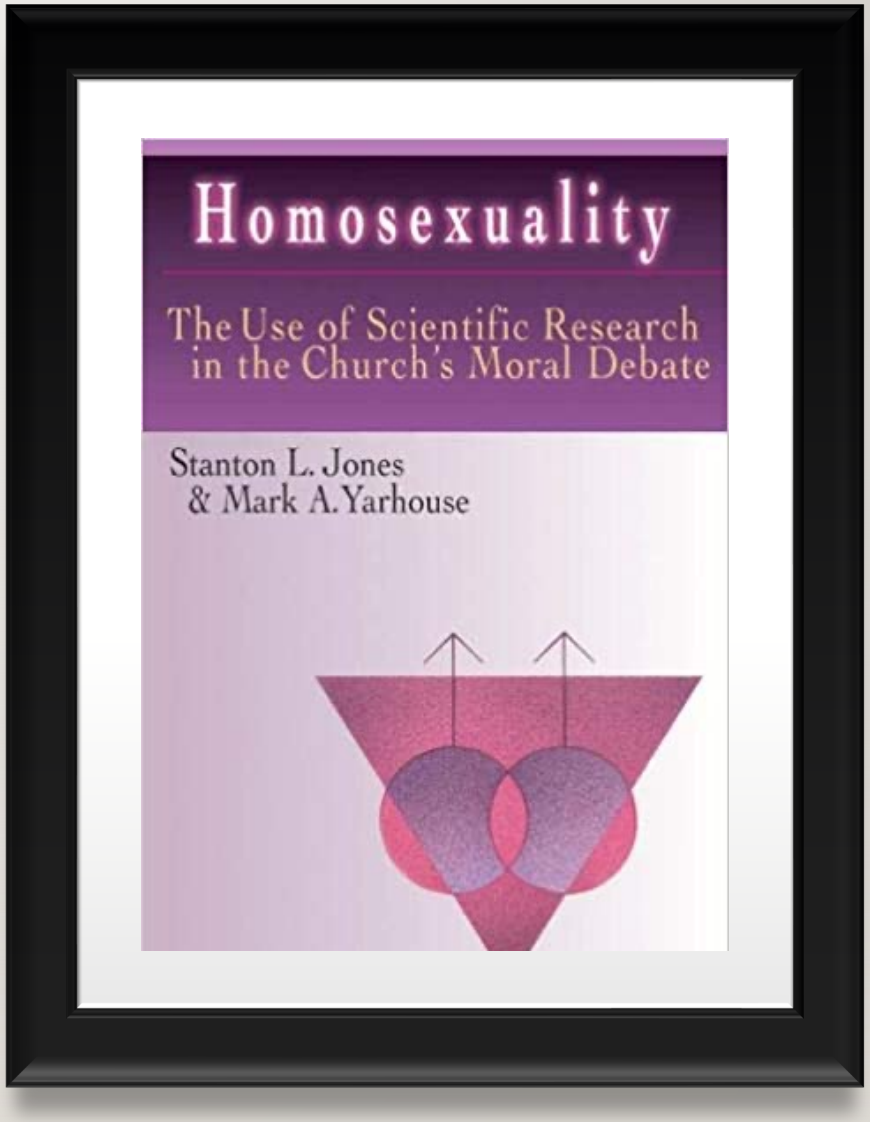
- There exist many genders
- Sexual *identities* are innate and immutable
- A body can contain a mind of the opposite sex

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALITY AND HETEROSEXUALITY

- Sexual practices
- Promiscuity
- Infertility
- Mental illness
- Interpersonal violence

HOMOSEXUALITY VS HETEROSEXUALITY

- Dire biological differences between anogenital intercourse versus vaginal intercourse
- Higher levels of promiscuity among male homosexuals
- Impossibility of natural parenthood
- Higher levels of mental illness
- Cannot be explained by "minority stress theory"



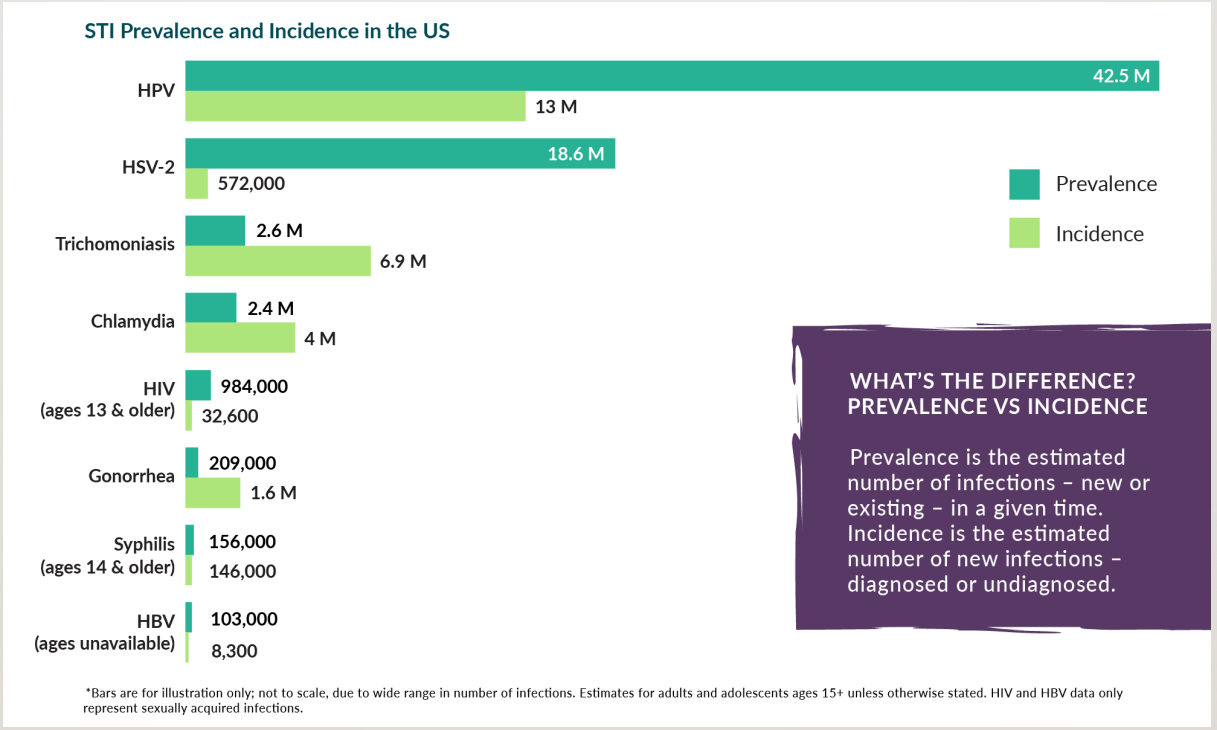
DANGER OF HOMOSEXUAL INTERCOURSE

- Rectal trauma
- Sexually transmitted diseases

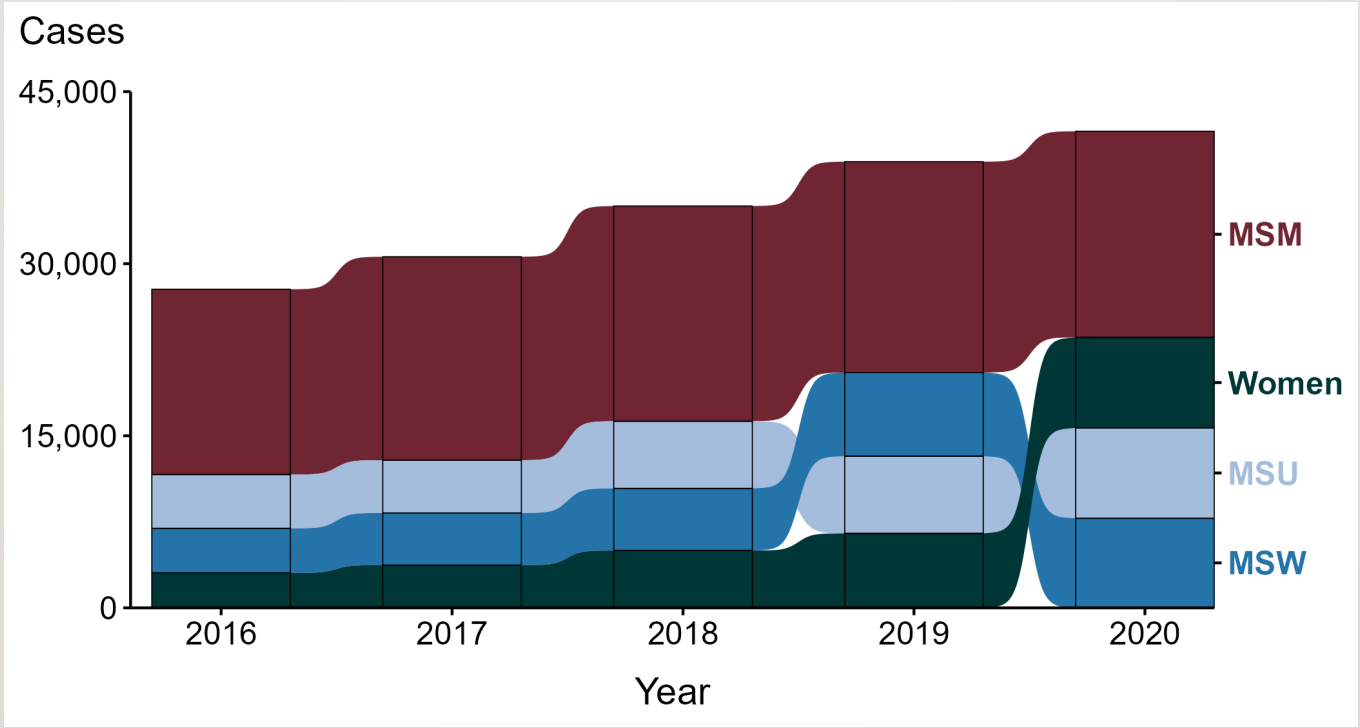
RECTUM VS VAGINA

- Much thinner wall
- Inelastic
- Little to no immune defense
- Terminates in a sphincter
- Colonized with bacterial pathogens

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

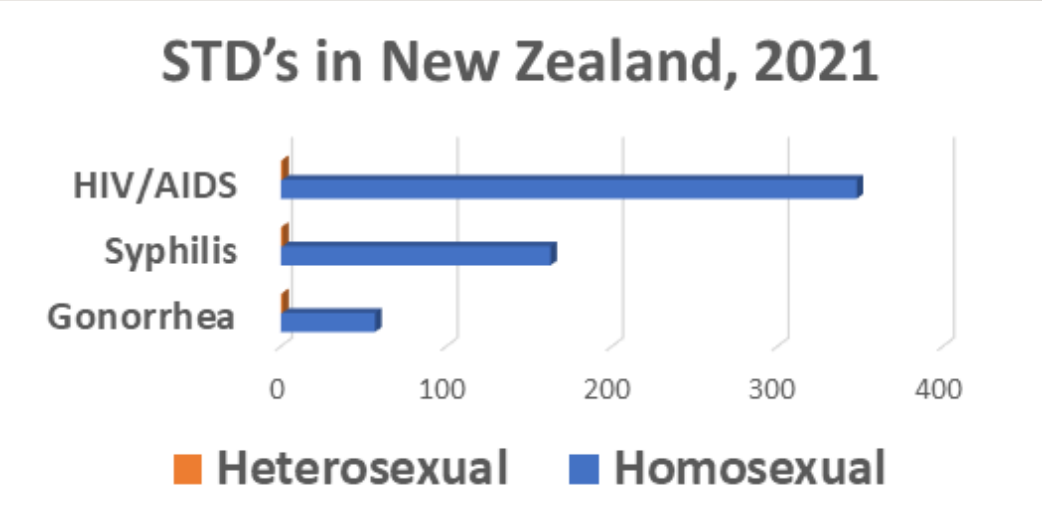


SYPHILIS: CDC



SAXTON ET AL, NEW ZEALAND, 2021

- National surveillance data
- Relative risk of Gay/Bisexual Men versus Heterosexuals:
  - Gonorrhea: 57x
  - Syphilis: 163x
  - HIV: 348x



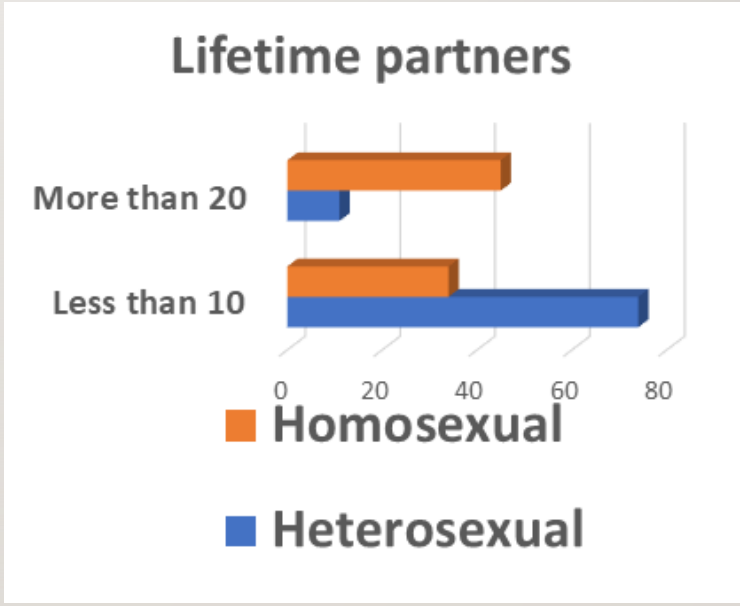

In 2019, an estimated 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE had HIV.*** Of those, 754,700 were gay and bisexual men.
For every 100 people with HIV
87
knew their HIV status.
For every 100 gay and bisexual men with HIV
85
knew their HIV status.†††
It is important for gay and bisexual men to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. People who get and keep an undetectable viral load (or remain virally suppressed) can stay healthy for many years and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their sex partners.
Compared to all people with diagnosed HIV, gay and bisexual men have higher viral suppression rates.
For every 100 gay and bisexual men with diagnosed HIV in 2019:‡‡‡


70%
Of the 34,800 estimated new HIV infections in the US in 2019, 70% (24,500) were among gay and bisexual men.

HIV: CDC

PROMISCUITY

- 45% of gay men report >20 lifetime partners, versus 11% of heterosexual men
- 34% of gay men report <10 lifetime partners, versus 74% of heterosexual men
- Source: *Relationships in America Survey (2014)*, The Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture, UT Austin
- Possible factors: loss of gatekeeper, male sex drive, gay subculture.



MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS

- Promiscuity
- Anxiety 1.5x
- Depression: 2x
- Substance abuse: 1.5x (men), 3.4x (women)
- Suicide: >4x higher among gay and bisexual men

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Research article | Open Access | Published: 18 August 2008

A systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay and bisexual people

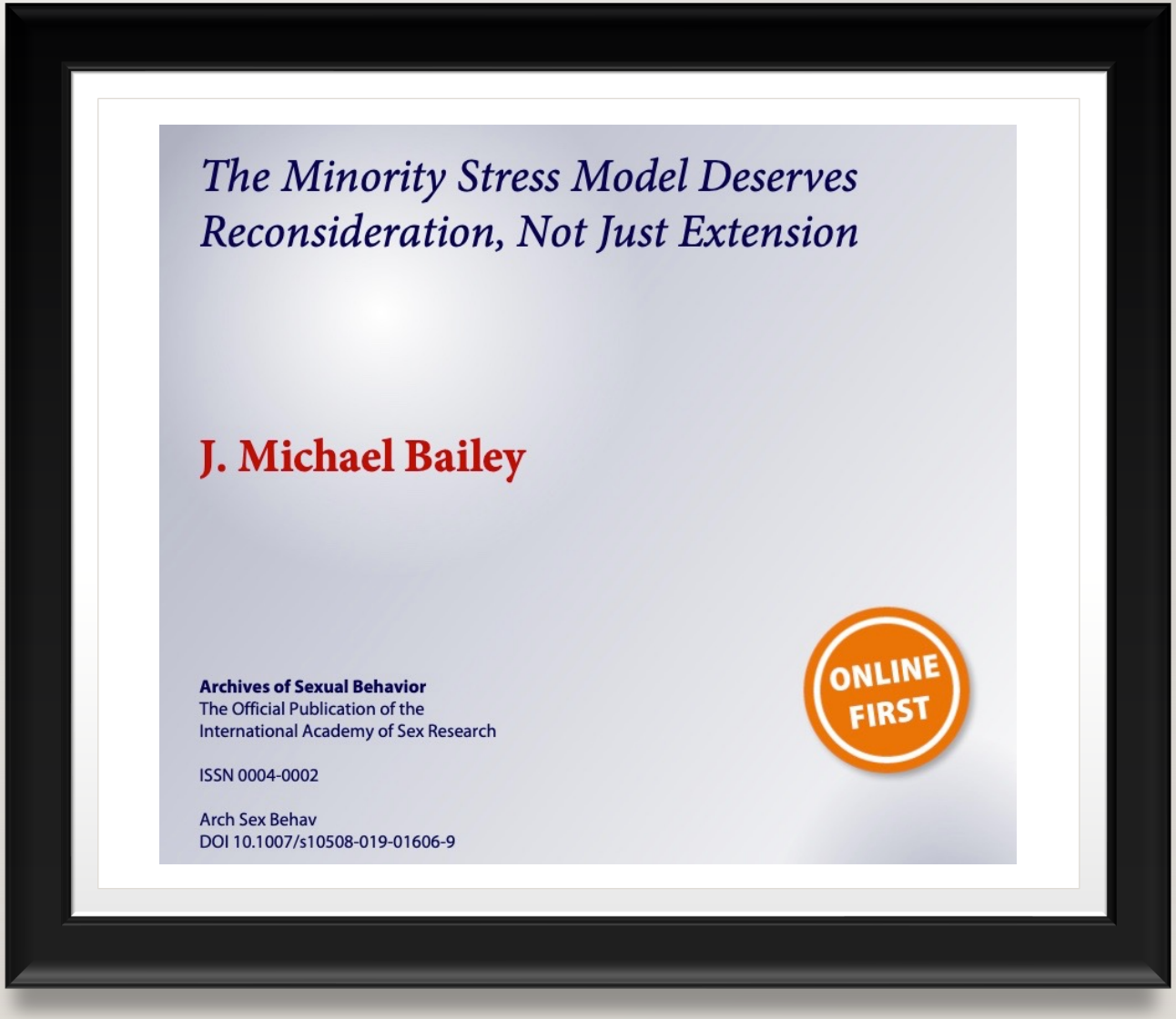
Michael King, Joanna Semlyen, Sharon See Tai, Helen Killaspy, David Osborn, Dmitri Popelyuk & Irwin Nazareth

BMC Psychiatry **8**, Article number: 70 (2008) | Cite this article

144k Accesses | **1293** Citations | **277** Altmetric | Metrics

MINORITY STRESS?

- Multiple factors contribute
- Possible co-morbidity of SSA
- Minority stress probably not zero
- Higher neuroticism leads to increased *perception* of discrimination



NEUROTICISM

"Neuroticism, one of the Big 5 personality traits, is typically defined as a tendency toward *anxiety, depression, self-doubt, and other negative feelings*. All personality traits, including neuroticism, exist on a spectrum—some people are just much more neurotic than others."

- *Psychology Today*

MINORITY STRESS THEORY

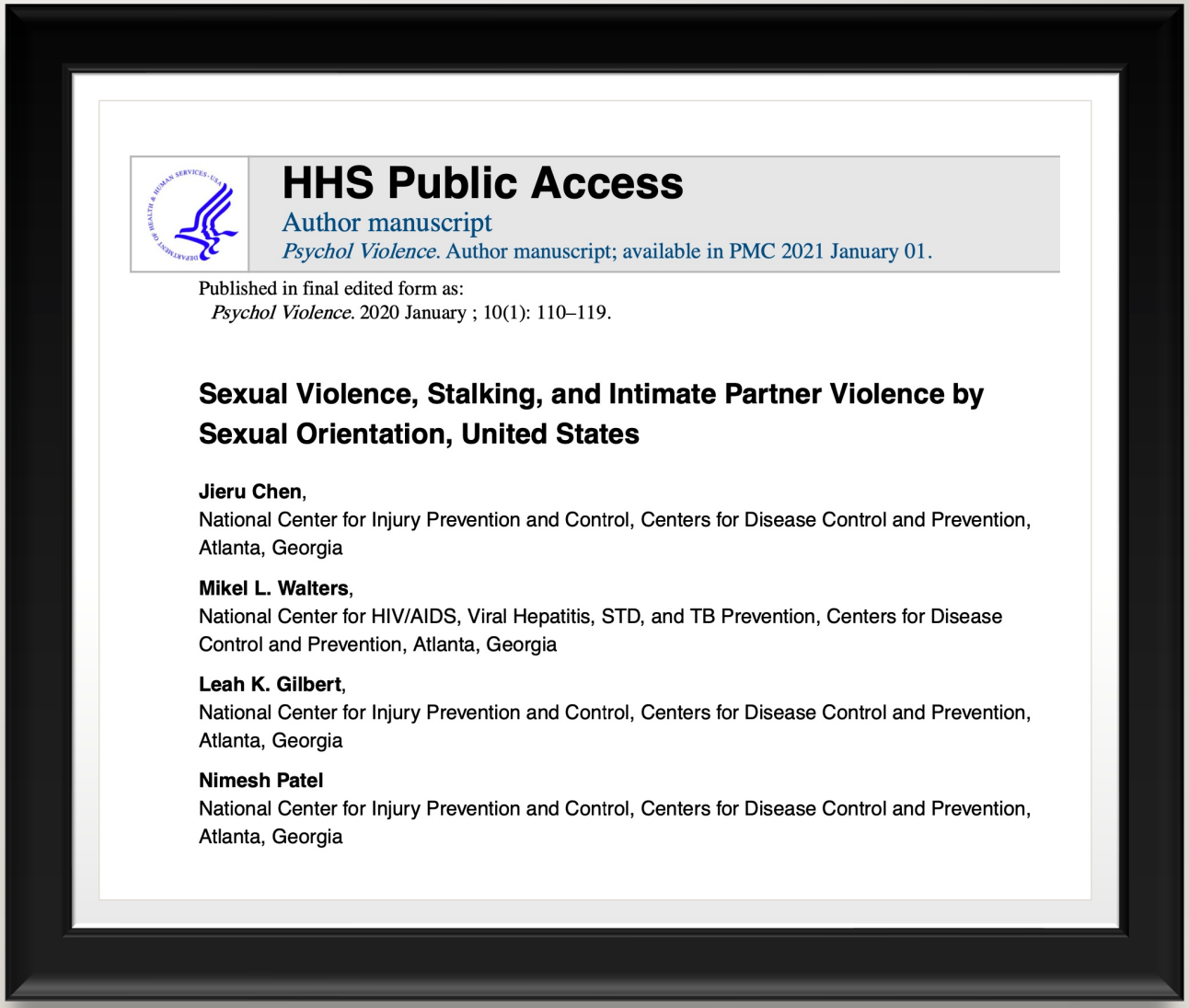
- A meta-analysis from 2020 found homosexual men consistently scored higher in Neuroticism
- In 2020, another study found that neuroticism had a worse impact on mental health than actual victimization

SOCIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

- Interpersonal violence
- Child sexual abuse

CONTACT SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VICTIM)

- Lifetime prevalence among:
  - Heterosexual men: 17%
  - Bisexual men: 39%
  - Homosexual men: 38%
- Lifetime prevalence:
  - Heterosexual women: 36%
  - Bisexual women 69%
  - Homosexual women 46%



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Psychol Violence. 2020 January ; 10(1): 110–119.

Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence by Sexual Orientation, United States

Jieru Chen,
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National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

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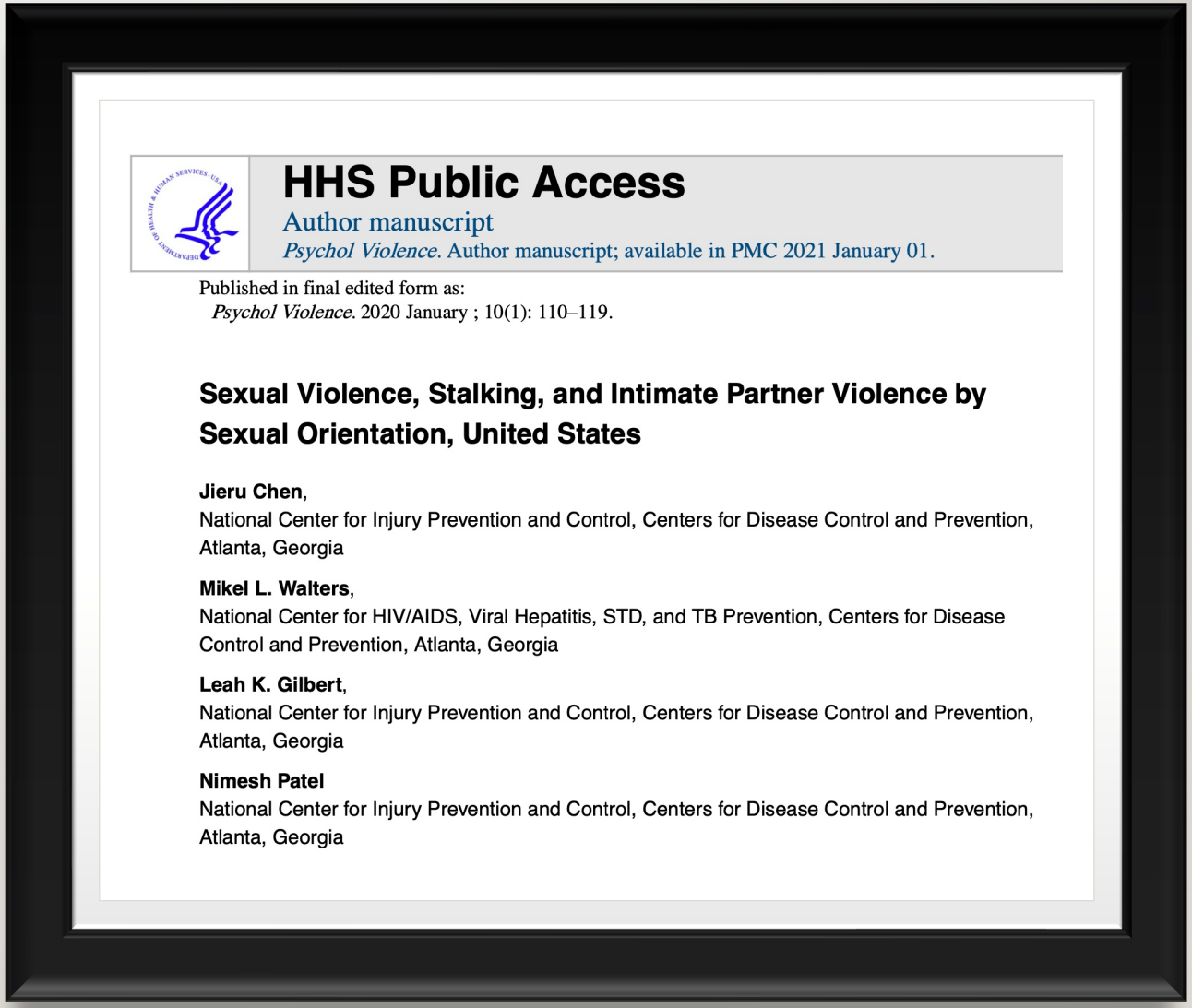
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- Bisexual women 60%
- Heterosexual women 37%
- Homosexual men 52%
- Heterosexual men 36%



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CHILD ABUSE

- Do homosexual men abuse children at a higher rate?
- Percentage of sexually abused boys much higher than % of homosexual males
- There are problems with most of the reports: how do you know?
- The Sullins report offered strong evidence in the affirmative
- The hypothesis has *not* been falsified

SULLINS REPORT (CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, 2019)

- Fourfold increase in homosexual priests from 1950s to 1980s.
- 80% of victims over age 7 were boys.

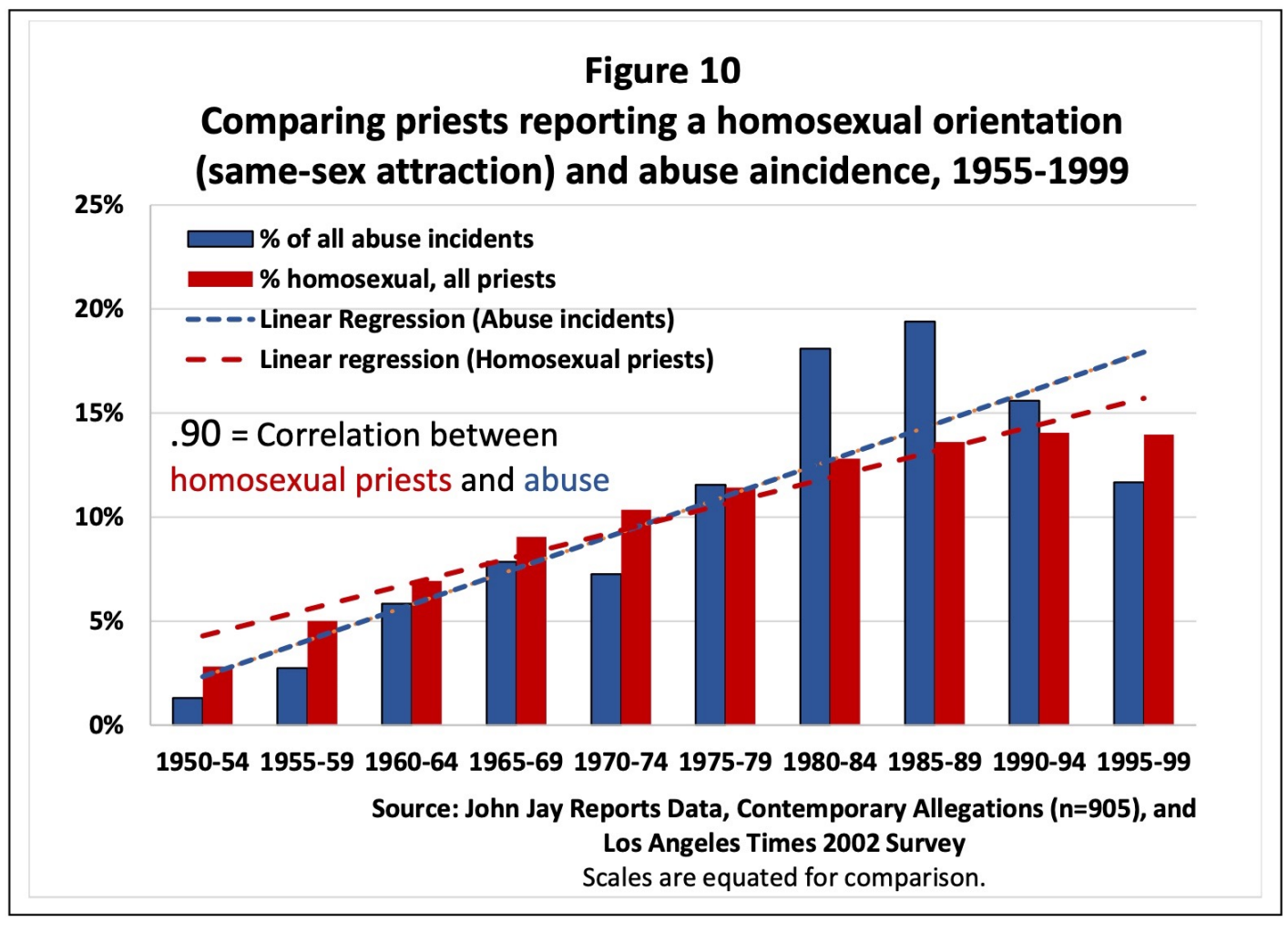
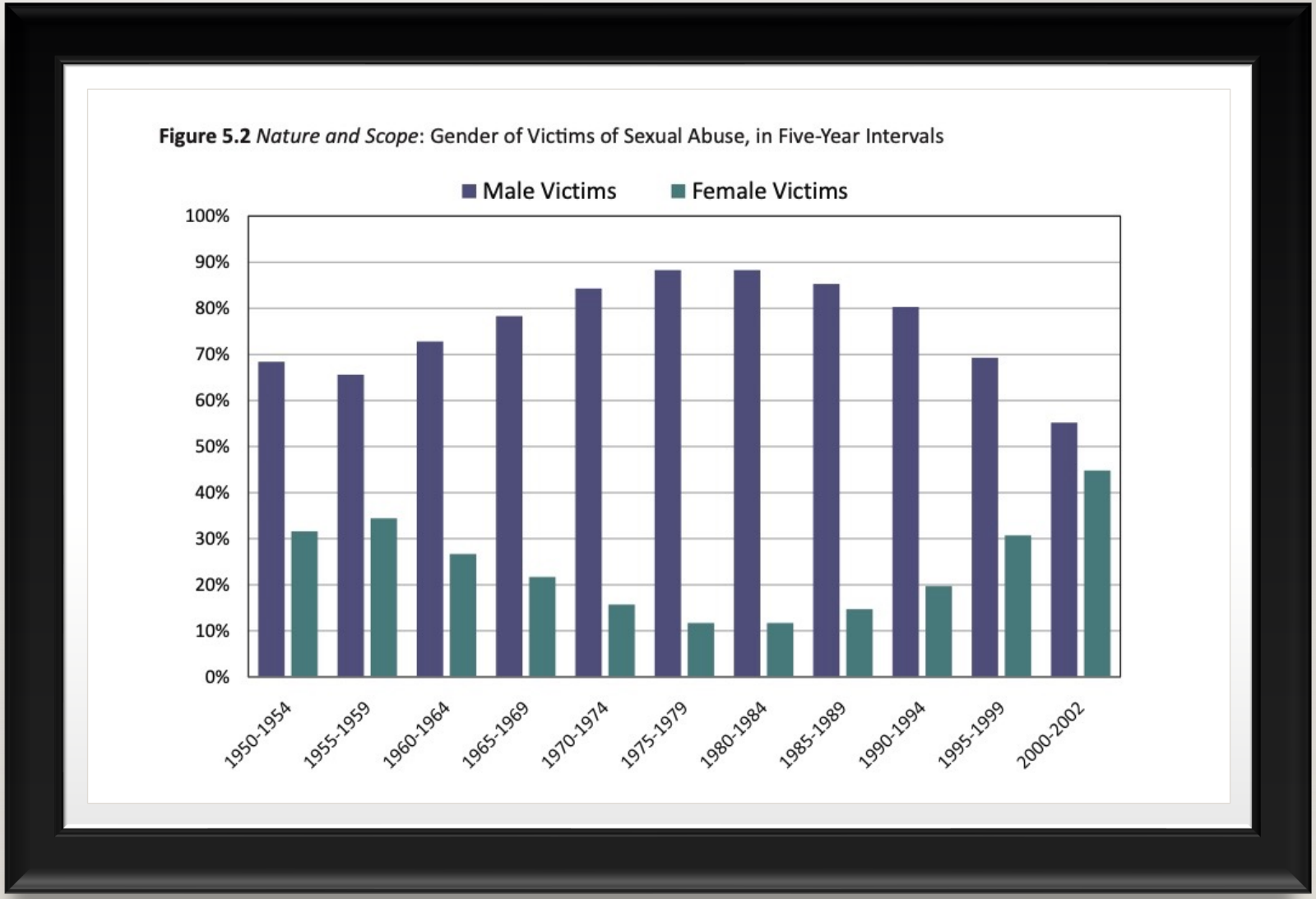


Figure 10
Comparing priests reporting a homosexual orientation (same-sex attraction) and abuse aincidence, 1955-1999
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
% of all abuse incidents
% homosexual, all priests
Linear Regression (Abuse incidents)
Linear regression (Homosexual priests)
.90 = Correlation between homosexual priests and abuse
1950-54
1955-59
1960-64
1965-69
1970-74
1975-79
1980-84
1985-89
1990-94
1995-99
Source: John Jay Reports Data, Contemporary Allegations (n=905), and Los Angeles Times 2002 Survey
Scales are equated for comparison.

PROPORTION OF MALE TO FEMALE VICTIMS INCREASED



CHILD ABUSE

- Evidence is quite compelling
- Should be cautious about invoking it
- Example: Boy Scouts

WHAT ARE THE MORAL RAMIFICATIONS?

- Hume's law: science cannot define morality
- Science can, however, distinguish safe from unsafe, healthy from unhealthy
- Truth
- Love
- Humility

ANCIENT GREEK

- "*kinaidos*" – slur applied to effeminate men. Not used in NT
- "*malakos*" – effeminate, catamite*, "a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness" (Thayer's) Matthew 11:8, Luke 7:25, 1 Corinthians 6:9
- "*arsenokoites*" – man who lies with a man, sodomite: 1 Corinthians 6:9, 1 Timothy 1:10

*"a boy or youth who is in a sexual relationship with a man" – dictionary.com

A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE?

- *Malakos, arsenokoites* = *Behavior.* Prohibited by divine law
- *Homosexual* = *Identity.* A recent social construct unknown to Biblical authors

WHY DO PEOPLE REACT SO DIFFERENTLY?

- Jonathan Haidt: Moral Foundations theory
- "Sanctity/Degradation":

  "This foundation was shaped by the psychology of disgust and contamination. It underlies religious notions of striving to live in an elevated, less carnal, more noble way. It underlies the widespread idea that the body is a temple which can be desecrated by immoral activities and contaminants (an idea not unique to religious traditions)."

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

- The corrupting effect of sin acts mostly on the mind
- Satan uses sex as a primary weapon to tempt and deceive
- The popular secular narratives are in spite of, not based upon, current science
- The sexually broken need compassion and grace, not judgment and condemnation