Development of a Multifactored Measure of Gender: Identity and Expression

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Biological sex and psychological gender have been recognized as separable but often related personal characteristics. While biological sex is typically directly self reported, measurement of gender has been collected using the Bem Social Role Inventory or the Personal Attributes Questionnaire. Both of these surveys measure the extent to which a person fits in with the expected behaviors for males and females of the culture. However, these measures need to be updated and broadened to reflect our changing culture as well as to better discriminate between different facets of gender, including gender identity and gender expression. We have gathered self report data about university students' experiences with gender and have developed a comprehensive measure of gender, gender identity and gender expression. These are assessed as separate concepts that show variability in many individuals, an idea that has typically be studied in only transgender populations. This measure of gender will allow more detailed research into the causes of gender variation and its impact on our lives as well as begin to support a more comprehensive theory of the construction and operationalization of gender.