

**Sexual Orientation,
Gender Identity,
Expression (SOGIE),
and How These
Identities Intersect
with Disability**

Beck Levin



AGENDA

- Brave Space
- Introduction to SOGIE
 - Gender Identity
 - Gender Expression
 - Sexual Orientation
- The History of Our Movements
 - Whiteness as a Historical Lens
 - Civil Rights Era Timeline
 - HIV/AIDS as an example
 - Marriage Equality and Disability
- Uniting Our Movements

THIS IS A BRAVE SPACE.³

“Brave spaces can look, sound and feel different from one another, but the general idea is to cultivate a productive dialogue where participants are encouraged to speak honestly and critically from their own experience toward the end of mutual learning and liberation.” – CityBureau

Hurt can and does happen in brave spaces. When we are hurt in brave spaces, we say “**ouch**” and do our best to explain why what is being discussed hurts.

If you are not comfortable bringing up why something said or done may have hurt, **please see me and I will follow up.**

WHY DISCUSS SOGIE?

There is a lot of overlap and intersectionality between the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community and folx with disabilities. According to a study conducted by the Movement Advancement Project:

- 3-5 Million 2SLGBTQQIA+ adults have disabilities
- 2 in 5 transgender adults have disabilities
- 1 in 4 lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults have disabilities
- 40% of bisexual men reported having a disability
- This overlap can cause increased stigma and additional barriers to employment, housing, healthcare access, and much more.



GENDER

Who you are.

**SEX ASSIGNED AT
BIRTH IS WHAT THE
DOCTOR CALLED YOU
WHEN YOU WERE BORN.**

- It's a ... (girl/boy)!

Sex Assigned at Birth



MALE

- Includes penis, scrotum, and other male genitalia and hormones
- Chromosomes XY



FEMALE

- Includes vagina, ovaries, and other female genitalia and hormones
- Chromosomes XX



INTERSEX

- One of 30 variations in physical, hormonal, or chromosomal characteristics
- Medically diagnosed, not self-identification

GENDER IDENTITY IS HOW YOU FEEL INSIDE.

- Has nothing to do with outward appearance.
- How YOU see YOURSELF.

Gender Identity



MALE

- Male
- Man
- Boy



FEMALE

- Female
- Woman
- Girl



OTHER IDENTITIES

- Non-Binary
- Genderqueer
- Trans
- Agender
- Many more!



GENDER EXPRESSION IS HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF TO THE WORLD.

- How the world might perceive you.
- Changes by the day, hour, etc.

Gender Expression




MASCULINE

- Pants
- Shorts
- Shirts
- Short hair
- Beard
- Mustache



FEMININE

- Dresses
- Skirts
- Makeup
- Long hair
- Nails painted



OTHER/ OUTSIDE THE BINARY

- Pants
- Shirts
- Skirts
- Dresses
- A combination of male/female presentations

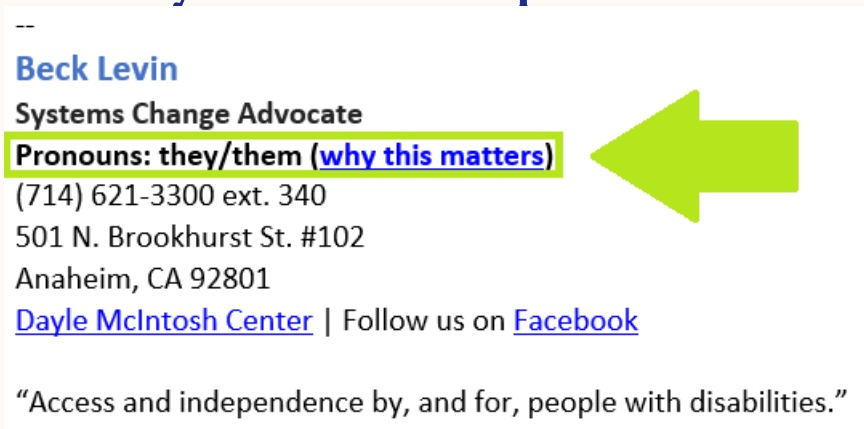
PRONOUNS

- Pronouns: how you refer to a person when they're not in the room.
 - Ex: Beck is DMC's Systems Change Advocate. *They* are usually in office Tuesday through Thursday
- It is important to know folx's pronouns so we do not misgender them by using the incorrect pronouns.

PRONOUNS (Cont. I)

- Sharing pronouns
 - Don't overcomplicate it!
 - “Hi my name is Beck and my pronouns are they/them/theirs. What are your pronouns?”
- Look for a person's pronouns in their email signature—and add your own pronouns to yours!

Image Description:
Beck's email signature
with the pronouns in a
green box and an arrow
next to it



PRONOUNS (Cont. II)

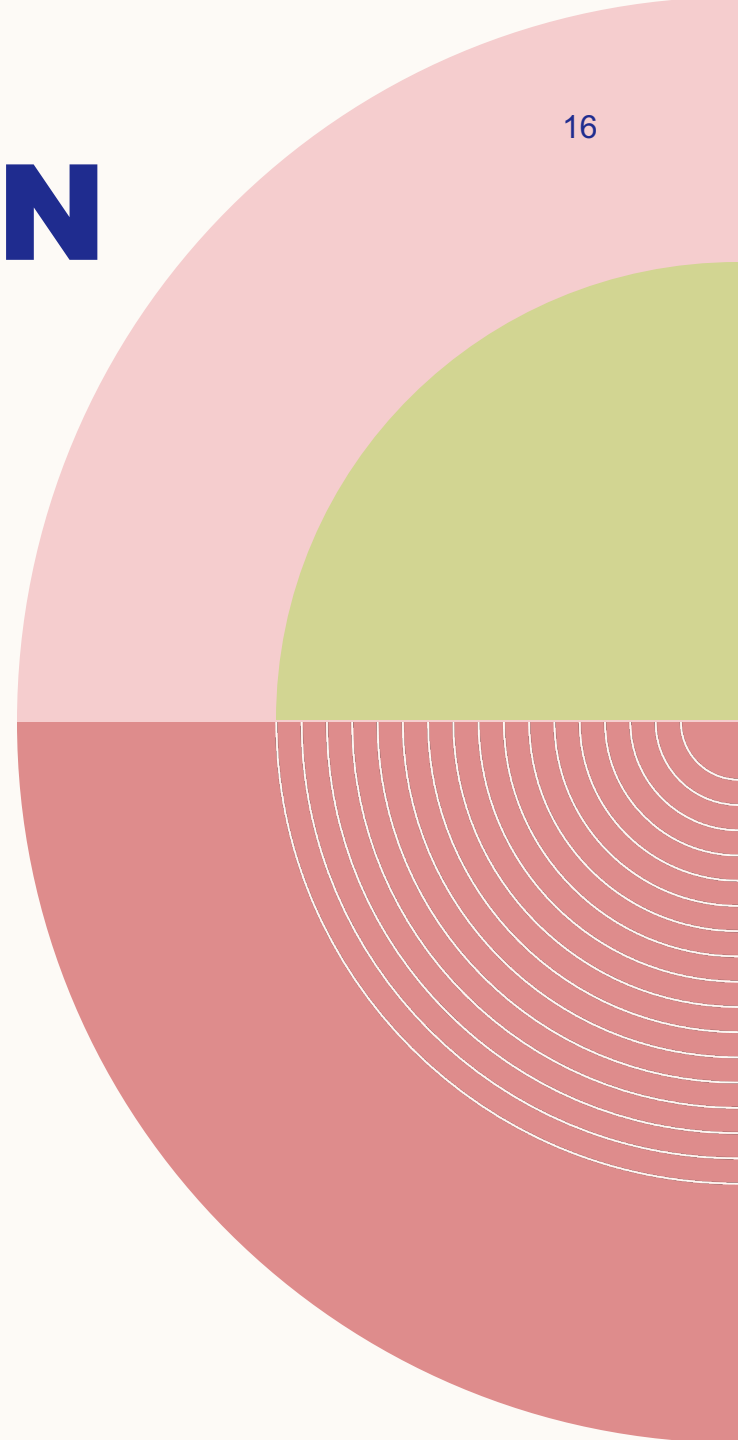
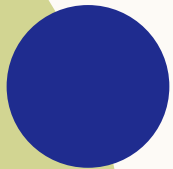
- What if you misgender someone?
 - Apologize, correctly gender the person, and move on!
 - Example: “Beck loves dogs. She—oh sorry! I mean, they—will try to pet every dog they see.”
 - Applies to friends, colleagues, and consumers
- If you’re unsure of a person’s pronouns...ask!
 - If you cannot ask, use “they/them” until you can ask which are the correct pronouns to use

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Who you love!

PHYSICAL ATTRACTION

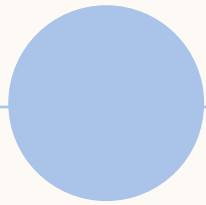
- Who you desire to be physically intimate with
- The “eyes meet across the room” effect in movies
- Not everyone desires physical intimacy, and that’s okay!



EMOTIONAL ATTRACTION

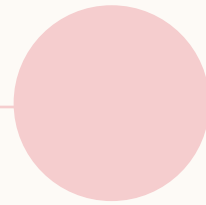
- Who you desire emotional intimacy with.
- Does not equate to a physical relationship
 - Example: best friends
- Attraction to a person's thoughts or feelings; emotional connection

Attraction to Genders



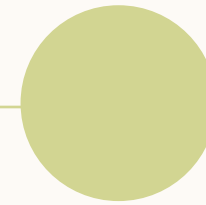
MALE

- Includes trans men



FEMALE

- Includes trans women



OTHER/OUTSIDE THE BINARY

- Includes anyone who doesn't identify with the male/female binary

The background features a large white circle on the left and a large light pink circle on the right, both overlapping a dark blue background. The pink circle contains several thin, white, concentric circular lines.

QUESTIONS?

The background features a vertical line on the left side. To the left of this line, there are concentric white circles on a light green background in the upper left, and a light pink triangle in the lower left. To the right of the vertical line, there is a light blue semi-circle in the upper right and a light red triangle in the lower right. The main text is centered on the white background.

THE HISTORY OF OUR MOVEMENTS

WHITE/WESTERNIZED DISABILITY HISTORY

- In the greater context of a white, capitalist, ableist system, we must acknowledge the role of race in historical ableism.
- The historical context we have is told *from a white, cisgender, heteronormative, ableist, male, land-owning perspective.*
- The history of other societies' treatment of people with disabilities can (and does) differ from this historical context.
- For the purposes of this presentation, we will focus on white/westernized historical context
- This does not diminish the importance of how other cultures treat/treated people with disabilities and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals



Image Description: A screenshot of a tweet from @Duhlency that was posed on the Instagram page @antiracisteducation. The tweet reads: The first step of getting free is admitting you have a colonized mind. You have to accept that pretty much everything you come to understand about human experience was taught to you from a white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchal frame of thinking

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

- In the 1950s and 60s, a nationwide movement for equal rights for African Americans and for an end to racial segregation and exclusion arose across the US.
- This movement spurred other non-dominant/marginalized groups to stand up for equity, accessibility, and equality.
- Disability Civil Rights Movement
- 2SLGBTQQIA+ Rights Movement
- Both movements began in the 1960s

DISABILITY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ORIGINS

- 1962: Ed Roberts was the first significantly disabled student to be admitted to U.C. Berkeley.
- By 1969: twelve significantly disabled students admitted
 - Known as the "Rolling Quads", they advocated for students with disabilities in housing and education.
- 1973: Passing of Section 504, The Rehabilitation Act
- 1977: Section 504 Sit in at SF Federal Building
 - Led to regulations being signed which authorized funding for the first independent living centers

DISABILITY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ORIGINS (CONT'D)

- **1978:** Disability activists protest inaccessibility of buses in Denver, CO; the Americans with Disabilities for Accessible Transportation (ADAPT) is founded.
- **1988:** Gallaudet University students protest the election of a hearing President. The university is the only university with all programs and services designed specifically for students who are D/deaf and hard of hearing. After a week-long protest, I. King Jordan, a Deaf individual, is appointed instead.
- **1990:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is signed into law

2SLGBTQQIA+ CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ORIGINS

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- 1966: Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco marks first US protest of the treatment of transgender, gay, and lesbian individuals
 - Leads to San Francisco being seen as queer hub
 - Led by black trans women (less press)
- 1969: Stonewall Riot touted as kick off of 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights movement

2SLGBTQQIA+ CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ORIGINS (CONT'D)

- June 1978: SF City Supervisor Harvey Milk becomes first visibly and outwardly gay politician in America
 - November 1978: Harvey Milk's assassination leads to rioting
- 2003: The Supreme Court Case *Lawrence v. Texas* officially decriminalizes sodomy in the United States
- 2013: Supreme Court cases *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and *United States v. Windsor* establish right to same-sex marriage in the United States.

INTERSECTING IDENTITIES: THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS

- 1981: First documented incidence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
 - Was initially called Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID)
- 1987: ACT UP was formed in New York City and held its first action on Wall Street to protest the profiteering of pharmaceutical companies on AIDS drugs

INTERSECTING IDENTITIES: THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS (CONT'D)

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- The role of government passivity
 - Many in the government and in society believed that the HIV/AIDS crisis was retribution inflicted in the wake of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Movement → did very little to acknowledge and treat HIV
 - This common tactic was used against people with disabilities fighting for equal rights and protections
 - Section 504 and the ADA came without “teeth”

SUPREME COURT CASES: ***UNITED STATES V. WINDSOR***

- The Supreme Court cases that established marriage rights for queer folx involved two same-sex couples. A member of each couple had a disability that was integral to the case.
 - Thea Spyer, late wife to Edie Windsor (plaintiff) had Multiple Sclerosis. This was an essential component not only of their lives, but also of the case. As Spyer's same-sex partner, Windsor did not have the same rights a heterosexual partner would have in a hospital.

SUPREME COURT CASES: ***OBERGEFELL V. HODGES***

- Following the *US v. Windsor* decision, James Obergefell and partner John Arthur married in Maryland. John Arthur had Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and the couple wanted Obergefell to be recognized as the surviving spouse on Arthur's death certificate.
- On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held in a 5–4 decision that the Fourteenth Amendment requires all states to grant same-sex marriages and recognize same-sex marriages granted in other states due to this case.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES GENDER IDENTITY & EXPRESSION

- www.pronouns.org
- The Gender Unicorn: <https://transstudent.org/gender/>
- Books
 - *Rebent Sinner* by Ivan Coyote
 - *Beyond the Gender Binary* by Alok Vaid-Menon
 - *Queer: A Graphic History* by Meg-John Barker
 - *What's Your Pronoun* by Dennis Baron
 - *A Quick and Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns* by Archie Bongiovanni
 - *Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle, and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children* by Elisabeth Rodgers
 - *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe
 - *The New Queer Conscience* – Adam Eli
 - *Before I had the words: on being a transgender young adult* – by Skylar Kergil
 - *Sissy: A Coming of Gender Story* – by Jacob Tobia



**ANY
QUESTIONS?**

THANK YOU!

Beck Levin

They/Them/Theirs

Systems Change Advocate

Dayle McIntosh Center

blevin@daylemc.org

714-621-3300 Ext. 340

<https://linktr.ee/dmcbeck>



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