celebrating 10 years
Celebrating Our Present  Claiming Our Past  Creating Our Future

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans
LGBT History Month 2015

History
‘coded lives’

Anne Lister diarist   Hugh Paddick & Kenneth Williams comedy actors   Frida Kahlo artist   The Chevalier d’Eon diplomat

www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

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www.lgbtyouthnorthwest.org.uk
Introduction

In the UK, LGBT History Month is marked and celebrated during the month of February. An initiative started by Sue Sanders from Schools OUT and now in its tenth year, LGBT History Month is a wonderful opportunity to explore, discuss and examine the lives of people who have come before us, those who have made an impact on the way that lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people can live their lives today.

Each year LGBT History Month is themed around an academic subject, this year that subject is history itself. Our friends over at LGBT History Month have selected various individuals from our past, those who for a variety of reasons have lived “coded lives”:

- **L** (lesbian) – Anne Lister, a diarist from the 1700’s;
- **G** (gay) – Kenneth Williams and Hugh Paddick, actors;
- **B** (bisexual) – Frida Kahlo, an artist;
- **T** (trans) – Chevalier d’Eon, a diplomat.

This resource pack is an exploration of these people and their lives with accessible and easy to run activities for young people in school, youth work provisions and other educational establishments. Throughout, there is opportunity to compare the lives of LGBT people who have come before us to the experience of LGBT people today, what has changed? What needs to change? Explore with young people the answer to these questions.

We begin with a fun way to get to grips with the words that a person might use to describe their gender identity, gender expression, biological sex and sexual orientation, words that many of which probably did not exist when the subjects of this resource were alive…
Codebreaker

Crack the code to find some of the words a person might use to describe their gender identity, gender expression, biological sex and/or sexual orientation. Do you know what they all mean?
Glossary of Terms

Gender Identity – Your gender identity is how you see yourself in your head – do you feel like a man? Do you feel like a woman? Do you feel like something other than these two options? Some people describe their gender identity as genderqueer – somewhere in between man and woman on a continuum. Others prefer the term genderneutral – feeling like you identify as no gender at all.

Gender Expression – This is how you express your gender to the world through the way that you act, dress and interact. Descriptions of gender expression are based on traditional gender norms, ranging from masculine to feminine with androgyny somewhere in the middle. A person who dresses in clothes usually associated with the opposite gender may be described as a transvestite or cross-dresser.

Biological Sex – a decision on a person’s sex is mostly made at birth, based on the new-born’s physiological characteristics. A person may be assigned “male” at birth, or they may be assigned “female”. For some people this decision is not straightforward, they have biological characteristics of male and female, they are intersex.

Sexual Orientation – This refers to who a person is attracted to. If a person is attracted to others who are the same gender as they are, they may describe themselves as gay or lesbian (homosexual). People attracted to the opposite gender may describe themselves as being straight (heterosexual). People who are attracted to men and women might describe themselves as being bisexual (bi meaning “two”), although pansexual (pan meaning “all”) is becoming a more popular term, in recognition that gender is more complex than two options. A person who is not sexually attracted to anybody might describe this as being asexual.

Trans – “Trans” as a prefix to a word means “on the opposite side of” and is an umbrella term for any number of identities and behaviours that cross society’s gender boundaries. A person may feel that the biological sex they were assigned at birth does not match their gender identity (e.g. a female who feels like they are a man or vice-versa). This person may describe this as being transgender. A transsexual person is somebody who is starting to, is in the middle of, or completed a process of transition to the gender that they feel they are. This usually takes place as part of a medical process.

A person who feels that their biological sex does match their gender identity is a cisgendered person (e.g. assigned female at birth and feel like they are a woman). “Cis” as a prefix means “on the same side as”.

Genderbread Person – this excellent resource from ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com is very useful for further explanation:

www.lgbtyouthnorthwest.org.uk
The Genderbread Person

Gender Identity

- Woman
- Genderqueer
- Man

Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormonal levels) and how you interpret what that means.

Gender Expression

- Feminine
- Androgynous
- Masculine

Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.

Biological Sex

- Female
- Intersex
- Male

Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.

Sexual Orientation

- Heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Homosexual

Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.
CELEBRITY “CODING” ACTIVITY

Recreate the four Genderbread scales on a large piece of paper or on the floor, large enough to have a group discussion around. Then, using the celebrities on next page, ask the group to plot them as to where you would think they fall on each of the lines.

- Why did you put them there?
- Do you think they would place themselves differently?
- Does it matter where they are on the scales?
- Where would you put yourself on the Genderbread scales?
- Is how you see yourself the same as others see you?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L</th>
<th>Ellen Page</th>
<th>Clare Balding</th>
<th>Heather Peace</th>
<th>Ellen DeGeneres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Dr Christian</td>
<td>Rylan Clark</td>
<td>Tom Daley</td>
<td>Jim Parsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Angelina Jolie</td>
<td>Frank Ocean</td>
<td>Nicola Adams</td>
<td>Billie Jo Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Laverne Cox</td>
<td>Chaz Bono</td>
<td>Paris Lees</td>
<td>Conchita Wurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>David Walliams</td>
<td>P!nk</td>
<td>Louis Smith</td>
<td>Serena Williams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.lgbtyouthnorthwest.org.uk
Anne Lister (1791 - 1840) was a Georgian woman of independent means. Her coded diaries chronicle her life, including her lesbian relationships. The diaries were only decoded in the 1930s. Lister is called “the first modern lesbian” for her clear self-knowledge and openly lesbian lifestyle. Her life continues to shape LGBT and Gender studies in the 21st Century.

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Starter Activity

In groups, divide a piece of paper in two. On one side list the names of gay men – past and present – that are familiar with the group. On the other side list lesbian or gay women – past and present – that are familiar with the group.

Exploratory Questions:

- Are the lists the same size in length?
- Why do you think this is the case?
- How are gay men and lesbians represented in the media?
- Who would you consider to be a good role model for LGBT young people?
- Who would you consider to be a bad role model for LGBT young people?
- Why are role models important for LGBT young people?

Main Activity

Researching lesbian women over the years. On the following pages are pictures of eight famous lesbian women. Using the internet, find out more about these women and bullet point these facts. We have done Anne Lister for you. Share the information found. Then, in groups, look each woman and the list of facts produced and decide how important each fact is in defining who that person was or is.

Exploratory Questions:

- How much emphasis is placed on their sexuality as a defining factor?
- Would there be the same amount of emphasis if the women were straight or bisexual?
- Would it be big news if a person your age came out as LGBT? What would happen?
- How would you react if someone in your friendship group told you that they are LGBT?

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1 Bisexual, Trans and other identities have been consciously excluded, to allow for a direct comparison.
Further Study Resources

**Documentary** - Revealing Anne Lister, presented by Sue Perkins. Broadcast May 2010, BBC.

**Book** – “The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister” (2010) by Anne Lister (Author), Helena Whitbread (Editor)

Anne Lister
(1791-1840)
- Lesbian
- Diarist (written in code)
- Land Owner
- Business Woman
- Adventurer
- First woman elected to the committee of the Halifax branch of the Literary and Philosophical Society
- Academic

Ellen Degeneres
(1958-)
- Lesbian

Ethel Smyth
(1858-1944)
- Lesbian

Dusty Springfield
(1939-1999)
- Lesbian
Jenny Shimizu (1967-)
• Lesbian

Ellen Page (1987-)
• Lesbian

Vicky Beeching (1979-)
• Lesbian

Wanda Sykes (1964-)
• Lesbian
Martina Navratilova (1956-)

- Lesbian

Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey (1886-1939)

- Lesbian

Gigi Chao (1980-)

- Lesbian

Clare Balding (1971-)

- Lesbian
Hugh Paddick (1915 - 2000) and Kenneth Williams (1926 - 1988) gay actors credited with bringing Polari, the coded slang of gay men to public attention via the camp characters Julian and Sandy in the BBC radio show 'Round The Horne'. Polari is enjoying a renaissance as its contribution to Queer culture is revalued. 2015 is Hugh's centenary and the 50th anniversary of 'Round the Horne'.

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POLARI

Polari was secretive language widely used by the British gay community from the 1900s to the 1970s. It was based on slang words deriving from a variety of different sources, including rhyming slang, and backslang (spelling words backwards).

In the eighteenth century it was mainly used in pubs around the London dock area. The language was soon picked up by merchant seafarers and brought back on ship. From the 1930s to 1970s the language was mostly used in gay pubs, theatre and on merchant ships.

Starter questions

- Why do you think the gay community created a secret language?
- Do you think LGBT people today have to code or censor their language?
- Do you ever have to code or censor your language?
- Have a look at the list of polari words on the next page (not exhaustive) – which words are still in common usage today?

Main Activity

Using the list of Polari words on the next page create a poem, song, rap or ditty. You can even make up your own coded words!

Further Study Resources


Trip: Exhibition “Hello Sailor!” at Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool.

App: www.polariapp.com
# LIST OF POLARI WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ajax</td>
<td>nearby (from adjacent?)</td>
<td>measures</td>
<td>Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>batts</td>
<td>shoes</td>
<td>meese</td>
<td>plain, ugly (from Yiddish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bijou</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>meshigener</td>
<td>nutty, crazy, mental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bod</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>metzas</td>
<td>Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bold</td>
<td>daring</td>
<td>mince</td>
<td>walk in a camp way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bona</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>naff</td>
<td>bad, drab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butch</td>
<td>masculine</td>
<td>nanti</td>
<td>not, no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camp</td>
<td>effeminate</td>
<td>national handbag</td>
<td>Dole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capello</td>
<td>hat</td>
<td>nishta</td>
<td>nothing, no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carts/cartso</td>
<td>penis</td>
<td>oglesfakes</td>
<td>Glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carsey</td>
<td>toilet, also spelt khazi</td>
<td>ogles</td>
<td>Eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chicken</td>
<td>young boy</td>
<td>omi</td>
<td>Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>charper</td>
<td>search</td>
<td>omi-polone</td>
<td>effeminate man, or homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>charpering omi</td>
<td>policeman</td>
<td>onk</td>
<td>Nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dish</td>
<td>an attractive male</td>
<td>orbs</td>
<td>Eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dizzy</td>
<td>scatterbrained</td>
<td>palare pipe</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dolly</td>
<td>pretty, nice, pleasant</td>
<td>palliass</td>
<td>back (as in part of body)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drag</td>
<td>clothes, esp. women's clothes</td>
<td>park</td>
<td>Give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecafe</td>
<td>face (backslang)</td>
<td>plate</td>
<td>Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eek</td>
<td>face (abbreviation of ecafe)</td>
<td>polari</td>
<td>chat, talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>esong</td>
<td>nose</td>
<td>polone</td>
<td>Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fantabulosa</td>
<td>wonderful</td>
<td>pots</td>
<td>Teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feele</td>
<td>child</td>
<td>riah</td>
<td>hair (backslang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit</td>
<td>old queen (gay man)</td>
<td>riah shusher</td>
<td>Hairdresser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gelt</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>scarper</td>
<td>to run off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glossies</td>
<td>magazines</td>
<td>scotch</td>
<td>Leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>handbag</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>sharpy</td>
<td>Policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoofer</td>
<td>dancer</td>
<td>shush</td>
<td>steal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jarry</td>
<td>food, also mangarie</td>
<td>shush bag</td>
<td>Holdall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaffles</td>
<td>trousers</td>
<td>shyker/shyckle</td>
<td>Wig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khazi</td>
<td>toilet, also spelt carsey</td>
<td>slap</td>
<td>Makeup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lallies</td>
<td>legs</td>
<td>strillers</td>
<td>Piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>latty</td>
<td>room, house or flat</td>
<td>thews</td>
<td>Thighs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lills</td>
<td>hands</td>
<td>trade</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lilly</td>
<td>police (Lilly Law)</td>
<td>troll</td>
<td>to walk about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loppers</td>
<td>fingers</td>
<td>vada/varda</td>
<td>See</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mangarie</td>
<td>food, also jarry</td>
<td>willets</td>
<td>Breasts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Website Link](www.lgbtouthnorthwest.org.uk)
History 'coded lives'
Frida Kahlo

Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón (1907 - 1954) a Mexican painter, known for her self-portraits. She suffered lifelong disability problems, caused by a traffic accident. Her injuries isolated her, as interpreted in her works. Though married to Diego Rivera, she identified with women sexually, emotionally, and politically, using art to express her convictions.

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SELF CODING AND PORTRAITS

“I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best.”

Frida Kahlo

Starter Activity
Print out and cut out the images on the next page. Piece them together to re-create Frida Kahlo’s self-portrait painting “The Two Fridas” that hangs in the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City. Ask:

- How are the two Fridas the same, how are they different?
- What does the artist tell you about herself in the painting?
- Are different expressions of yourself possible in art that are difficult in reality?

Main Activity
Using the arts and crafts materials available, draw, paint or sculpt a portrait of yourself. Consider:

- What will this piece of art say about your identity?
- Will it contain any secretive or coded messages? Who are they for and who will understand them?
- Can you say something with this piece of art that it is difficult to say in real life?

Further Study Resources

Film – “Frida” (2001) starring Salma Hayek.
“The Two Fridas” by Frida Kahlo (1939)
Charles Geneviève Louis Auguste Ando Timothée d’Eon de Beaumont (1728 - 1810) a diplomat who lived in London as a man, then lived and dressed as a woman in France until his death. As both he enjoyed fame in politics, high society and popular culture - an incredible achievement in an age of strict binary gender codes.

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GENDER CODING

Charles-Geneviève-Louis-Auguste-André-Timothée d’Éon de Beaumont (5 October 1728 – 21 May 1810), usually known as the Chevalier d’Éon, was a French diplomat, spy and soldier, whose first 49 years were spent as a man, and whose last 33 years were spent as a woman.

We cannot be sure whether in today’s terms Chevalier would identify as a transvestite or transgender, but exploration of their life leads to an interesting discussion about gender codes that still exist today – what is male/masculine or female/feminine? Who decided?

Starter Activity

Have a look at the below portrait of Chevalier that hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

- What aspects of this painting would lead you to code the person as male or masculine?
- What aspects of this painting would lead you to code this person as female or feminine?
- Where do you think gender coding rules came from?
- Does gender coding still happen today? How?
- Do people still have to live by traditional gender codes? What happens if they don’t?
- What assumptions do we make about people who do not follow expected gender codes and behaviours?
- Have a look at yourself right now – what aspects of you would be coded male/masculine or female/feminine by society? How do you “code” yourself? Why?
Portrait of Chevalier d'Éon by Thomas Stewart (1792)
Main Activity

Using a piece of flipchart, make two columns. At the top of one put “masculine/male behaviours” and at the top of the other column put “feminine/female behaviours”. Ask the group to make a list of behaviours and gender expectations and write them in the columns (here are some starter examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine/Male behaviours</th>
<th>Feminine/Female behaviours</th>
<th>Non Gendered behaviours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be “tough”</td>
<td>Wearing make-up</td>
<td>Voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To not be emotional</td>
<td>Shaving legs</td>
<td>Playing a musical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exploration Questions:

- Where do these gender rules come from and how much pressure is there to conform to them?
- Are these rules fixed – the same in different cultures? Do they change over time?
- How easy is it question or challenge these rules? Not conform?
- What happens when people don’t conform to gendered expectations? (Use media representation – coverage of Julia Roberts with unshaven armpits, difference between the way the media portray sportspeople – men judged on performance, women judged on the way they look and for being aggressive or muscular.)
- What are the reasons why a person wouldn’t want to conform? Some for a reason e.g. male cyclists shaving their legs, some for pleasure – choosing the clothes to wear based on what is comfortable.
- What would you like the future look like in relation to gender and gender expectations?
Further Study Resources


**Anime:** Le Chevalier d'Eon (2006), an anime series loosely based on the Chevalier d'Éon.

LGBT Youth North West is a regional organisation that seeks to meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people. We do this in a number of ways:

- Directly providing youth services and opportunities to LGBT young people;
- Providing a support and opportunity network for other LGBT youth groups and youth professionals;
- Working in schools and other youth settings in a number of ways to raise awareness of the issues faced by LGBT young people;
- Training professionals that work with young people to ensure their practice is LGBT inclusive.

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