

Asexuality Defined

‡ Asexual: A person who does not experience sexual attraction to people of either sex (Bogaert, 2004; 2006). There is considerable diversity among the asexual community; each asexual person experiences things like relationships, attraction, and arousal somewhat differently (www.asexuality.org).

‡ Prevalence: The asexual community is estimated at 1% of the US population (Bogaert, 2004).

‡ Asexuality is NOT:

± «WKH VDPH DV VH[XDO G\VIXQFWLRQ

± «WKH VDPH DV FHOLEDF\

± «DQ H[SUHVVLQR RI GLVLQWHUHVW LQ URPDQFH

± «DQ H[SUHVVLQR RI GLVLQWHUHVW LQ SK\VLFDO DIIHF
etc)

± «DQ LQDELQW\ WR DFKLHYH VH[XDO SOHDVXUH IURP
(masturbation)

Asexuality in Context

‡ Relationships: Asexual people have the same emotional needs as anyone else, and like in the sexual community, they vary widely in how they fulfill those needs. Some asexual people are happier on their own, others are happiest with a group of close friends. Other asexual people have a desire to form more intimate romantic relationships, and will date and seek long-term partnerships. Asexual people are just as likely to date sexual people as they are to date each other (www.asexuality.org). There is also a difference between romantic and sexual orientations - see the AVEN forum for detailed descriptions of these categories.

‡ Attraction: Many asexual people experience attraction, but they feel no need to act out that attraction sexually. Instead they feel a desire to get to know someone, to get close to them in whatever way works best for the individual. Asexual people who experience attraction will often be attracted to a particular gender, and will identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or straight (www.asexuality.org).

‡ Arousal: For some sexual arousal is a fairly regular occurrence, though it is not associated with a desire to find a sexual partner or partners. Some will occasionally masturbate, but feel no desire for partnered sexuality. Other asexual people experience little or

OP DUBXVDO % HEDYVH WKH\ CROW EDUH DEBYW VHI D

History of Asexuality in Literature

‡ Alfred Kinsey, the well-known researcher, did not have overt heterosexual or homosexual stimuli, and [did] not have overt physical contacts with individuals of either sex in which there is evidence of any sexual activity in his erotic spectrum (as cited in Przybylo, 2013).

‡ The first mention of asexuality in professional literature was in 1977. Harvey and Jean Gochros were the first to mention asexuality. Michael Storms followed their lead, documenting the asexual population. (Przybylo, 2013).

‡ Very few sex researchers, including Paula Nurius (1983), William Masters et al (1986), and Braden Berkey (1990) wrote about asexuality until the last decade. Anthony Bogaert (2004; 2006; 2008) is responsible for contributing the most contemporary literature on asexuality (www.asexuality.org).

Asexuality Education Resources

- ‡ 3\$VH[XDOLW\$Q 2YHUYLHZ' YLGHR
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEeGuCCQ_8w
- ‡ Asexuality Visibility and Education Network (AVEN). www.asexuality.org.
- ‡ Asexuality Archive. www.asexualarchive.com
- ‡ 37DNLQJ WKH &DNH \$Q LOOXVWUDWHG SULPHU RQ DVH[XDOLW
<http://zinelibrary.info/files/taking%20the%20cake%20-%20double%20sided%20printing.pdf>
- ‡ Asexuality Common Terminology:
<http://asexualawarenessweek.com/docs/AceGlossary.pdf>
- ‡ Asexuality 101 (includes recommendations for asexual affirmative language): <http://asexualawarenessweek.com/docs/AceInfo-TrevorProject.pdf>
- ‡ Asexuality Explorations: www.asexualityexplorations.net
- ‡ 31R 6H[3OHDVH :H¶UH \$VH[XDO' DUWLFOH
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&objectid=10455823
- ‡ (A)sexual (2011). Available on Netflix.

References

- Bogaert, A. (2004). Asexuality: Prevalence and associated factors in a national probability sample. *The Journal of Sex Research* 41 (3), 279-287.
- Bogaert, A. (2006). Toward a conceptual understanding of asexuality. *Review of General Psychology* 10(3), 241-250.
- Bogaert, A. (2008). Asexuality: Dysfunction or variation? In: *Handbook of Bisexuality* (Ed. by J. T. EMC), 24-44. New York: Springer.