



Homosexuality: Born or Made? Controversy Stirs In Costa Rica

Homosexuality has been practiced for thousands of years. Simply put, homosexuality is defined as sexual relations between like genders (i.e., two males or two females). Many people now believe that homosexuality is part of who a person really is from the moment of conception.



Former legislator Juan José Vargas (left), psychiatrists Larisa Escalante (right) and Ángelrafael González (second from left) discuss the homosexuality issue with Pilar Cisneros on Costa Rica's national television

The "genetic and unchangeable" theory has been actively promoted by gay activists and the popular media.

Is homosexuality really an inborn and normal variant of human natural?

For some people yes, and for others no. Some people do not have their first homosexual feelings or experience until they are well into adulthood.

For that reason many believe that homosexuals are made, not born. To me homosexuality is a chosen, learned behavior and former legislator Juan José Vargas has raised controversy in assuring that there is a safe treatment that could end with homosexuality for those undergoing special therapy.

Against Vargas are Costa Rica's psychologists who say that homosexuality is not a disease, and therefore cannot be cured.

The Pros

In relation to homosexuality, the nature concept explores the possibility of a specific gene or combination of genes present at the time of birth that genetically predispose people to homosexuality. In other words, some people are born gay.

Gay advocates say proving there is a gay gene will provide "wider social acceptance and better protection against discrimination," as [Neil Swidey](#) writes in his Boston Globe article, "What Makes People Gay?" Proving that being gay is not a choice means that discrimination against gays becomes a matter of civil rights.

The Cons

We're all influenced by our environment, but to what extent? The nurture concept of homosexuality argues that social, parental and environmental variables influence a person's homosexuality. A nurtured gay person is one that is "made" gay.

For some time, the notion of an overbearing mother or an absent father or even sexual abuse were thought to be catalyst of future gay people. If the root of homosexuality does not lie within DNA, then the nurture concept implies people have a choice whether to be gay or not be gay. Many ex-gay reparative therapy groups believe that homosexuality can be reversed or "repaired". Some religious organizations also believe that the concept of

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Adam and Eve (or one man, one woman), provides an absolute explanation that homosexuality is unnatural.

Resolution

Can the origin of same gender loving feelings be absolute? Does it lay within the complexities of the beginning of man or the development of society?

If homosexuality is indeed a product of a special genome, then will that lead to predetermination by expecting parents at the time the baby's sex is revealed? One can envision some parents being excited to hear the sexual makeup of their fetus while others seek to "repair" the gay gene. Lawmakers would be obligated to protect gay people, just as any other group of individuals with a predetermined genetic makeup. The religious implications would be widespread and increase the growing list of religious organizations that welcome gay members.

The concept of a homemade gay person cannot be ignored either. Is there a consistent pattern between a person's parental or environmental influences and their sexuality? Does the explanation of homosexuality lie within [Paul Ewald](#)'s theory that homosexuality is a virus or the reparative therapy model that a traumatic life situation planted the seed of choice? Some debate that homosexuality is not deserving of natural rights since it has not been proven that being gay is indeed the same as any other born characteristic.

Or, is it possible that being gay is a combination of both nature and nurture? Imagine a person that is born gay, but their same gender feelings are either perpetuated or (not perpetuated) by their environment. If this were indeed the case, homosexuality would only be an issue of if or when one comes out of the closet.

Either scenario, researchers will continue to hunt for the origin of homosexuality. Many avenues have been explored, from isolating DNA to observing gay animals, but as of yet, no one absolute explanation of homosexuality has been found. And even if it were, would society accept it?

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