

# Gay, Straight, and the Reason Why

SIMON LeVAY

## GAY, STRAIGHT, AND THE REASON WHY



THE SCIENCE *of*  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

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What causes a child to grow up gay or straight? In this book, neuroscientist Simon LeVay summarizes a wealth of scientific evidence that points to one inescapable conclusion: Sexual orientation results primarily from an interaction between genes, sex hormones, and the cells of the developing body and brain.

LeVay helped create this field in 1991 with a much-publicized study in *Science*, where he reported on a difference in the brain structure between gay and straight men. Since then, an entire scientific discipline has sprung up around the quest for a biological explanation of sexual orientation. In this book, LeVay provides a clear explanation of where the science stands today, taking the reader on a whirlwind tour of laboratories that specialize in genetics, endocrinology, neuroscience, cognitive psychology, evolutionary psychology, and family demographics. He describes, for instance, how researchers have manipulated the sex hormone levels of animals during development, causing them to mate preferentially with animals of their own gender. LeVay also reports on the prevalence of homosexual behavior among wild animals, ranging from Graylag geese to the Bonobo chimpanzee.

Although many details remain unresolved, the general conclusion is quite clear: A person's sexual orientation arises in large part from biological processes that are already underway before birth. LeVay also makes it clear that these lines of research have a lot of potential because--far from seeking to discover "what went wrong" in the lives of gay people, attempting to develop "cures" for homosexuality, or returning to traditional explanations that center on parent-child relationships, various forms of "training," or early sexual experiences--our modern scientists are increasingly seeing sexual variety as something to be valued, celebrated, and welcomed into society.

作者介绍:

Simon LeVay is a British-born neuroscientist who has served on the faculties of Harvard Medical School and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. He has written ten previous books, including the New York Times best-seller, *When Science Goes Wrong*.

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标签

心理学

性学

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科普

性别及性向

心理

Sexuality

Psychology

## 评论

标准化的论文框架，从各相关方面论证性取向缘于个体不同的生物（大脑、基因）基础。此外，性别认知也逐渐多元化。前一段在德国，简单的性别男女标签逐渐被主观评分方式替代，从1（女）-6（男），可以自我评分性别指数。那，请听从自己，以最舒服的方式去爱与被爱吧。

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Reading it with a curiosity I usually reserve for suspension novels.

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对gay/lesbian/bi成因的生物基础方面的研究和进展做了较全面的介绍。大多篇幅都在讲激素的影响，很少涉及遗传学研究。介绍激素的影响时，几乎全盘引用Simon Baron-Cohen的研究（Delusions of Gender里引用反例指出这些研究并不一定可靠）。与其是解释gay的生物基础，本书更多是在分析有gender non-conformity倾向的gay的成因，即使他们占了很大比例，transgender和有gender non-conformity倾向的直男女以及gender-typical的gay/lesbian/bi或多或少会感到不能认同（作者也指出存在多样性别特征，但没说清楚）。一些研究并不严密，结论也多猜测，不过作者有特别指出。

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生物书

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就只说了gay里偏女性，les里偏男性的群体的可能成因，激素在早期发育阶段的影响等。没有很厉害的感觉。比较想知道那些性状偏差不大的群体的相关统计学结果。

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It is a great book. It mainly discusses "the reason why" some people are homosexual, that is, a somewhat joint effect of hormone and genes.

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I want myself in this way, but my brain drags me to another. My instincts.

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书评

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