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SEXOLOGY  
DEFINITION AND CONCEPTS  
THEORY OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT OF SEX  
AND ITS FUNCTION  
A PROPOSAL  
Second Version

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SEXOLOGY. DEFINITION AND CONCEPTS. THEORY OF THE  
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A PROPOSAL.

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I thank the opinion that you may have about this paper, as well as the constructive critics and contributions (Credits will be given). Please contact or address me on the subject. U.P.J.M.B. Torre Bianco. Av. Paramaconi. San Bernardino. Caracas. Otherwise, address to Apartado Postal 68636 Altamira. Caracas 1062-A. Venezuela. Phones: (582) 528922 y 513055. Fax: (582) 513455.

With this paper I wish to honor students of the Bianco's School of Sexology, and to the Members of the Venezuelan Medical Sexology Society.

## **THEORY OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT OF SEX\***

### **AND ITS FUNCTION**

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**Fernando J. Bianco. M.D., Ph.D.\*\***

The necessity lays on the epistemology location of a field of knowledge. In this case, Sexology...

I feel the need to know the content and scope of this field of knowledge. What I believe is that I give to Sexology its field and its boundaries related with another medical and non-medical areas...

We must remember that Science is the systematization of Knowledge... Science explains a reality, technology transforms it. Thus we have dedicated to technologize Sexology.

At all lights, the Theory of the Physiological Variant of Gender and its Function has capacity to predict, has Universality and follows the Parsimony Rule; and more over, it allows its replicability.

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\* SEX and GENDER are synonymous (1)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Since approximately 20 years ago, the author has been dedicated progressively to the Sexology field. Such dedication implies: to assist more than 6,000 patients, the implementation of Post-Graduate Programs with the aim to train the necessary human resources —Physicians Specialists in Medical Sexology, and Professionals formed as Clinical Sexologists and as Sexological Counselors— and the execution of various Research Projects, which have presented in Seminars and Congresses and published in Scientific Magazines. Both cases at national and international levels.

If its is true it has never existed a planification, which is basic, when there is a full time dedication to a field of knowledge. Since to be that life is conducting me; without doubt I have gone from practical to theoretical. I have reflected after have done. In other words, from empirical to scientific. As it was affirmed by Stoetzl (2), “**Experience preceeds Theory**”.

As product of the observation and experience, the author feels compromised to theorize.

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## II. WHAT IS SEXOLOGY?

Before to answer this question, this difference between “*definition*” and “*concept*” must be clear (3).

“*To Define*” refers to “fix clearly and exactly the meaning of a word or the nature of a thing. “*Concept*” refers to the idea which conceives the understanding, the expression of thinking to the smartness, opinion, and judgment of who conceptualize. “Conceptualization” refers to conceptualize, to form concepts.

Attending to its etymology, Sexology —which comes from the Latin *SEXUS* which means **SEX** and the Greek LOGOS which means **TREATY/STUDY**— is defined as Treaty or Study of Sex (Gender) (4, 5).

Product of all the experience acquired during the last 20 years, we have conceptualized Sexology as the branch of knowledge which studies **GENDER** and **SEXUAL FUNCTION** (6).

My intention is to demonstrate that the conceptualization proposed is quite related to the definition of Sexology.

The dictionaries point out that Sexology is the Treaty/Study of **GENDER**. The equally define **GENDER** as the organic condition which distinguishes male from female, where “*condition*” alludes to kind, natural or property of things; while “*organic*” refers to a body able or in disposition to live.

Hence when the word “**GENDER**” is defined the existence of an “*anatomic structure*” which allows distinguishing between male and female is indicated. “*Structure*” due to the distribution and order of the parts in a whole, and “*anatomic*” because Anatomy

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is the branch of knowledge which deals with structure and any other disposition of the different parts of the organic bodies, either animal or vegetal ones.

All the “*anatomic structures*” have a function; understood as their own activity. Activities pertaining to **GENDER** are defined with the word “**SEXUAL**”. Then the construct “**Sexual Function**” express “**GENDER’ s** own activity”. Remember the Activity is the faculty of actioning , working: conjoint of works and operations.

Then the concept that **GENDER** is an *structure which has a function* proposed by Bianco and Montiel (7) during the meetings of the Teaching Staff and Post-Graduate students of the Medical Sexology area held in February 1988, at the POST GRADUATE UNIVERSIT (J.M.B.T. —formerly known as Centro de Investigaciones Psiquiátricas, Psicológicas y Sexológicas de Venezuela, 1975-1991— corresponds with the definition of Sexology.

Sexology is the Treaty or Study of **GENDER**. **GENDER** is and structure which has a function. Then, the **OPERATIVE DEFINITION OF SEXOLOGY** is: *Treaty/Study of GENDER and ITS FUNCTION*. This coincides with our position —which we have been supported since 1982 (8, 9) — to conceptualize Sexology as the branch of knowledge which studies **GENDER**, and **SEXUAL FUNCTION**.

Now, the join of the organic characteristics which distinguishes male from female —**GENDER**— is the result of a **DIFFERENTIATION PROCESS** which starts when the sperm cell joins the ovum, forming an egg or zygote; meanwhile the **GENDER’ s** own activity —**SEXUAL FUNCTION** is the result of a process which starts when the **Sexual Stimulus / Situation — Sexual Response Unit** is activated.

In consequence, the **OPERATIVE CONCEPT OF SEXOLOGY** is: *the branch of knowledge which studies GENDER, its Differentiation Process and Alterations; and the SEXUAL FUNCTION, its Activation Process, its Physiological Characteristics and Alterations.*

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### III. THEORY OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT OF GENDER AND ITS FUNCTION

Since 1973 we have used the constructo **PHYSIOLOGICAL SEXUAL VARIANT** (10, 11) to explain the Sexual Responses observed in human beings.

We were setting the basis for a theory without knowing it. As we were elaborating concepts and constructos, this reality has become more and more evident; arriving to a point where the reflexive analysis done by the author in the last years allows to elaborate a theory.

Morles (12) affirms that “Theory” is a “*join of definitions, concepts, postulates, axioms, hypothesis, principles and laws which are interrelated*”. Theory, in terms of Marx & Hillix (13) is “*a formal aspect, explanatory, which differs from the empirical aspect, observables that are researched through models*”

The **Theory of the Physiological Variant of Gender and its Function (T.P.V.G.F.)** is a formal framework, explanatory, based on definitions, concepts, postulates, axioms, hypothesis, principles and laws, which allow studying **GENDER and ITS FUNCTION**.

#### A. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

For a better understanding of the **Theory of the Physiological Variant of Gender and its Function**, attention must be paid to the definitions and concepts which support it.

*Variant*: which varies or may vary, each one of the forms in which something is presented. Provisional deviation.

*Variability*: quality of variable.

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*Physiology*: branch of knowledge which studies the functions and properties of the organs and living tissues. In other words, it studies the dynamic (functioning) of the organized bodies (anatomic structures).

*Physiological*: related to Physiology.

Due to these definitions, we elaborate the constructo **PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT**, which is conceptualized as “*the necessary condition of the organism which allows it to function*”

When applied to **GENDER** and **SEXUAL FUNCTION**, the constructo **PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT** becomes into **PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIANT OF GENDER AND ITS FUNCTION**, conceptualized as: “*the necessary condition of the organism which allows the functioning of the Gender Differentiation Process and the Activation Process of the Sexual Stimulus Situation - Sexual Response Unit*”.

*Process*: alludes to a join of successive phases of a natural phenomenon.

*Differentiation*: is the action of differentiate. The progressive series of modification which bears to the development of an individual or to the solution of a spice. It is due, mainly, to biological factors.

Hence, the constructo **GENDER DIFFERENTIATION PROCESS** is conceptualized as “*the join of successive phases which bears to a progressive series of gradual complexity changes in the development of the organic condition of male and / or female, which is due, mainly to biological factor*”.

We have affirmed that “process” alludes to a join of successive phases of a natural phenomenon.

Activation means action and effect to activate. To activate refers to arouse, to exitate.

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*Unit* is a simultaneous action which tends to the same aim.

*Situation* is action and effect of setting. State of things and people. That has been located. Located, in relation with the environment (internal or external) of a certain number of acts or reference points. Complex resulting from the interaction. Disposition of a thing in relation to the place it sets. State, condition. To locate means to set and individual or thing in a determined place or situation.

*Simulus* refers to any change in internal or external environment of an organism which provokes a modification in its activity. To elicit a performance of a thing or to arouse an activity.

The constructo **STIMULUS / SITUATION** is conceptualized as: *the action to set any change in the internal or external environment of an organism, with the aim to elicit an activity.*

We had mentioned that “**SEXUAL**” refers to **GENDER**’s own activities. Hence, the constructo **SEXUAL STIMULUS / SITUATION** is conceptualized *as the Action to locate any change in the internal or external environment an organism in order to elicit an activity of Sexual character.*

**RESPONSE** means any *activity accessible to observation (muscle con tractability, Glandular secretions, etc.) and control, elicited by a Stimulus/Situation.*

As previously mentioned, **SEXUAL** refers to **GENDER**’ s own activity, so the constructo **SEXUAL RESPONSE** is conceptualized as: *All the activities characterized by the presence of cortical and/or medularly activation of the Nervous System which is correlated with a tumescence phenomenon, muscle contractibility (smooth or striated) and detumescense phenomenon at genital level as well as non genital leve!/: resulting from a Sexual Stimulus / Situation.*

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*The activation process of the sexual stimulus situation sexual response unit is a conjoint of phases which exitate to o simultaneous of an organism. This elicits a sexual activity accessible to observation and control.*

## **B. POSTULATES**

### **1. POSTULATE OF THE SEXUAL FUNCTION INTEGRATION**

(14, 15)

The objective of this postulate is to explain how the Individual acquire his/her **Sexual Pattern** (16), conceptualized as a Model of Activities pertaining to **GENDER**.

The Human Being has a condition: its Physiological Van ant of Gender and its Function, and a capacity of discriminate. The interrelation of these two characteristics, their interrelation and integration will be the clue to establish the Sexual Pattern of each individual.

As a result of discriminative phenomena (17, 18) the **Physiological Variant of Gender and its Function**, will have activities pertaining to Gender and to the Sexual Function; whose sum conforms the **Sexual Pattern**.

According to the previously stated, the **Sexual Pattern** has the following characteristics:

1. The individual's own **Gender**

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2. The individual's **Sexual Function:**

- a. With which **Gender** here will be functioning:
- b. With which **Methods**;
- c. With which **Frequency**;
- d. King of **Sexual Response Cycle**
- e. **Functioning Time.**

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## 2. POSTULATE OF THE FUNCTIONAL SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

(19,20)

The objective of this postulate is to explain when the individual acquire his/her **Sexual Pattern**.

The interaction Human Being-Environment occurs during all life long. The Human Being has three periods during his/her growing process:

- a . Undifferentiated Period.
- b. Transition Period and
- c. Differentiated Period

In each one of these periods, **the Physiological Variant of Gender and its Function** is going to undergo various discriminations, products of the interaction Human Being Environment.

*a. Indifferenciaded Period*

The undifferentiated period comprises since the moment of birth until 8-10 to 12 years of age approximately. The Sexual Function which is innate, does not have any kind of discrimination, which means that the Physiological Variant is in its most freely expression (21). Thus, we may observe in children **Sexual Response** elicited by a **Sexual Stimulus / Situation** of any kind, such as those generated by mother, father, male and / or female friends, domestic animals, etc.

The **Sexual Function** performance during childhood (wrongly called “Children Sexual Games”) must be interpreted as the physiological expression of the Activation Process of the **Sexual Stimulus / Situation — Sexual Response Unit**.

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Parents must take into account the consequences that their attitude may have in the child who is discovered when he/she is performing Sexual Games (for instance: reprehension and/or punishment, or comprehension and/or explanation according to the case and age of the child). Such attitude may be determining factors in the individual to associate a negative reaction (response), when facing a Sexual Situation; or to associate a natural and certain attitude when facing situation alike.

b. *Transition Period*

It comprises from 8-10 to 12 years, until 18 to 21 years of age. It is characterized because the Human Being emits, in reference to the Sexual Sphere, responses which reflect, the requirements and impacts of the Socio cultural Environment. In our society, for instance, it is taught that they must respond sexually to a **Sexual Stimulus / Situations** from Human Beings belonging to the opposite **Gender**; who have an age similar to theirs and the characteristics of “attractiveness” which were established by the group. Generally, he / she discriminates, establishing a **Sexual Pattern**.

Consequently, it is important to note that, during this period, the human being is potentially able to perform various and different sexual activities, which may explain the transitoriness of the different behaviors observed during this Period. Hence, he / she may respond to Sexual Stimulus/Situation of heterosexual, homosexual, self erotic, fetishist, zoophilic, voyeuristic, and other natures. Consequently, masturbation, homosexual, heterosexual, fetishist, zoophilic, voyeuristic experiences observed during this Transition Period are expression of the trial-error method which is requested by all discriminative processes. These intend to fulfill the exigencies of the socio cultural environment: “**Sexual Function** should be performed with the opposite **Gender**, with certain characteristics, using the allowed methodology and in a given frequency”. This drives equally to discriminate a **Functioning Time** and a **Sexual Response Cycle**.

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*c. Differentiated Period*

Comprehends from 18-21 years of age and on. It is characterized because the Human Being may have completed his/ her Sexual Pattern, adjusting it, generally, to the requests of the socio cultural environment. This does not mean that the **Physiological**

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**Variant of Gender and its Function** has been extinguished, but it has been limited through discrimination in benefit of the social acceptance and to avoid socio cultural conflicts.

Hence, the interaction human being-socio culture during the different periods explains when we acquire the **Sexual Pattern**.

### **C. AXIOMS**

*“Any Sexual Stimulus / Situation will elicit a Sexual Response”*

### **D. HYPOTHESIS**

*“The Sexual Response of an organism in physiological stage which is in a non-discriminate state, is function of the application of a Sexual Stimulus / Situation (without taking into importance its origin ) “*

This Hypothesis was proved during the well -known research done by Bianco in 1973, which was reported during the First World Congress of Biological Psychiatry (1974), held in Buenos Aires (22) and replied in animals by Bermudez and Marquez in 1981 (23).

### **E. LAWS**

#### **FIRST LAW**

*“To a major discrimination, minor Sexual Physiological Variability”*

### **F. PRINCIPLES**

*“To give and to get” (24 ).*

*“To feel and not to think” (25, 26).*

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#### IV. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

*Activation:* action and effect of activate.

*Activity:* faculty of work, of action, join of aims or operations.

*Anatomy:* dissection of the parts of an organic body, either animal or vegetal, science which deals with the structure or any other disposition of the different parts of the organic bodies either animals or vegetables.

*Axiom:* principle, clear and evident truth. Proposition as clear and evident that does not need any demonstration, neither can be demonstrated.

*Capacity:* empty space of something which is enough big to contain other or others. Talent, disposition to a good understanding of things.

*Character:* signal or mark which is printed in something. Trace supposedly left in mind by something known or felt. Nature, condition or circumstance proper of a thing. Peculiar mood of each individual.

*Concept:* idea conceived by the understanding. Expression of a thought. Shrewdness, opinion, judgment.

*Conceptualization:* to concept, to form concepts.

*Condition:* nature or property of things.

*Constructo:* idea or model which has been constructed from realities. Construction.

*Definite:* This constitutes the object of a definition.

*Definition:* action to define. Proposition which explains the essential character of a thing.

*Differentiation:* action to differentiate. The progressive series of modifications which bears to differences in the development of an Individual or in the solution of a specie. It is due mainly to biological factors.

*Discrimination:* action and effect of discriminate, to differentiate one thing from other.

*Factor:* element, cause, concause, which joined to other things contributes to an effect.

*Function:* activity proper of a cell or part of a cell; of an organ or a system.

Gender: organic condition which distinguishes male from female.

Hypothesis: supposition which is done to deduct a consequence. The one which studies not to elaborate a theory, but to serve as guide in an scientific research.

Latent: hidden.

Latency : qualify of latent.

Law: rule or norm immutable, grown from the prime cause. Supreme Authority. Precept, religion , loyalty, fidelity, tender ness, love. Established condition to a particular act

Organic: body able or in disposition to live.

Pattern: line, model. Parameter which functions as a model, kind, model, perfect example, archetype.

Period: space of time which includes all the duration of a thing. Cycle (space of time) which when finished, starts to be contabilized again. Time used by a phenomenon to

Pass through all its phases.

*Physiologic*: related to Physiology.

*Physiology*: is the branch of Biology that studies the Functions and properties of the organs and living tissues. In other terms, it studies the dynamic (functioning) of the organized bodies (anatomical structure).

*Postulate*: proposition admitted without proofs as necessary basement of other thought. Supposition to base a demonstration.

*Proposition*: action to propose (affirmation or supposition), Expression of a judgment between two terms, subject and predicate, which affirms or refuses this from that; or, includes or excludes the first one from the second one. Enunciate of a truth proved or which must be proved.

*Process*: action to go toward. Time which passes. Join of successive phases of a natural phenomenon or an artificial operation.

*Proposal*: idea, project, business, proposition made to a goal. Consult which is done to an individual or committee which has to solve a matter.

*Response*: any activity accessible to observation (muscle contractibility, glandular secretions etc.) and control.

*Sexual*: pertaining or related with Sex.

*Stimulus*: any change in the internal or external environment of an organism which elicits a modification in its activity. To incite the performance of a thing or arouse an activity.

*Situation*: action and effect of locate. State of things and people that has been located. Location related to the environment (internal or external) of a certain number of acts or reference points. Complex resulting from an interaction. State, condition.

Speed: fastness of the movement. Relation between space gone and time used to cover it.

Structure: distribution and order of the parts in a whole. Join of elements correctly disposed among them, subject to different efforts and destined to stand charges or external weights.

Theorization: to theory. To try a matter in theory.

Theory: speculative knowledge independent from all explanation. General principles of an art or science. Supposition, hypothesis.

To activate: refers to arouse, to excite.

To differentiate: to make distinction.

To Define: to fix clearly and exactly the meaning of a word or the nature of a thing. To solve a doubtful thing.

To locate: to put an individual or a thing in a determined place or situation.

Unit: simultaneous action which tends to the same goal.

Variability: quality of variable.

Variant: which varies or may vary. Each one of the forms which is present. Provisional deviation.

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MASTER FIGURE

