

# Intersex and Middlesex: Accuracy of Pseudohermaphroditism as portrayed by Calliope Stephanides and Zora in *Middlesex*

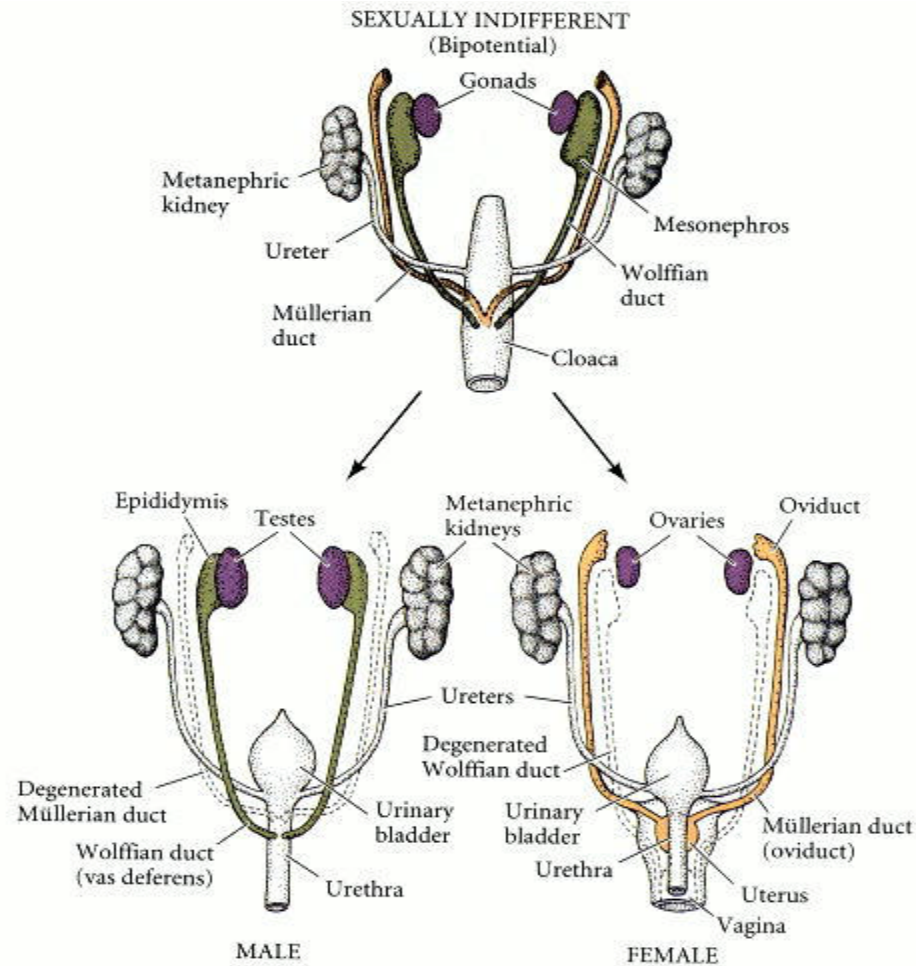
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Literature has a long standing tradition of bringing ignored topics to light in revealing ways, and in the high tension debate of gay marriage, the issue of hermaphroditism and pseudohermaphroditism must be acknowledged. Jeffrey Eugenides is incredibly thorough and accurate in his portrayal of pseudohermaphroditism and how it affects a child. His term “middlesex” is used to describe Cal, a child who is a pseudohermaphrodite.

**Sex** Vs. **Gender**

And

The Issue of Gay  
Marriage



GONADS		
Gonadal type	Testis	Ovary
Sex cords	Medullary (internal)	Cortical (external)
DUCTS		
Remaining duct for germ cells	Wolffian	Müllerian
Duct differentiation	Vas deferens, epididymis, seminal vesicle	Oviduct, uterus, cervix, upper portion of vagina

(C, J, A, B)

5<sup>th</sup> Chromosome and DHT, Testosterone  
(pseudohermaphroditism)

Sex Chromosomes and sex variability  
XO, XS, XXO, XXXY  
(hermaphroditism)

Psychological sex variability  
Homosexuality, Transsexualism



# Disorder

Vs.

# Intersex

# National Intersex Society of North America

- Definition
- Its goal
- “Normalizing” surgeries on infants

# Pseudohermaphroditism

5-Alpha Reductase

Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome

Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome

(J, B, D)

# Hermaphroditism

Positive  
Negative

(J)



# Nature vs. Nurture

Dr. Luce and Dr. Money

(F, G)

# Intersex in the Gay Marriage Debate

## Works Cited

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- (C) “Chromosomal Sex Determination in Mammals: Primary and secondary sex determination”. *National Center for Biotechnology Information*. Sinauer Associates, Inc., 2000. Web, November 16, 2009.
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- (I) "Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders." *University of Hawaii*. Web. November 16, 2009.
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