

Gay Genes and The Twin Study – some thoughts from Liz Dyer

Over and over again we hear about people who say that "this and that" proves people are not born homosexual.

One thing that I hear fairly often is that if being homosexual was genetic then you would not have identical twins where one is homosexual and one is heterosexual and that sounds right, but

Some things to keep in mind is there is no clear evidence about what determines sexual orientation while all scientific and medical studies have come to the conclusion that sexual orientation cannot be caused by wrong parenting or some kind of abuse or by choice.

When a scientist looks at the data they look at it more thoroughly ... when scientists are looking at pairs of twins they don't stop at asking who has what sexual orientation ... they go on and ask how often, when one of them is homosexual, the other one is too ... and because the rate is "much higher" (30-50% in identical, twins who share all of their DNA sequence, but only 10-20% in fraternal, twins who share only half of their DNA) in identical twins scientists have determined that genetic factors are more than likely playing a part in determining sexual orientation.

What we ultimately need to keep in mind is that all current scientific studies point to sexual orientation being something fundamental to a person (this includes the twin studies you often hear about).

Another thing that people who are not scientists (like me and you) often have trouble understanding is that when a scientist says sexual orientation is probably caused by a combination of things and one of those things is probably environmental the scientist is not referring to anything that has to do with how

the child was parented or if the child was abused or if the child felt rejected by their peers ... when a scientist is saying environment may play a part they are talking about something much more complex than anything that could be controlled or managed which include not only the utero environment but also intrinsic developmental variations that can have dramatic effects on the end-state or outcome of brain development.

Needless to say it is mind boggling for someone like me and yet after a lot of research I am confident that sexual orientation is innate and cannot be changed.

I only bring this up because I feel like there are a lot of religious people who try to use data in a very shallow way to promote the idea that people are not born homosexual, that people who are sexually attracted to people of the same sex are broken and that LGBT people need to be fixed ... and that breaks my heart.

Here is a link to a piece that you might find helpful if this is something you are interested in:

<http://www.wiringthebrain.com/2014/03/gay-genes-yeah-but-no-well-kind-of-but.html>