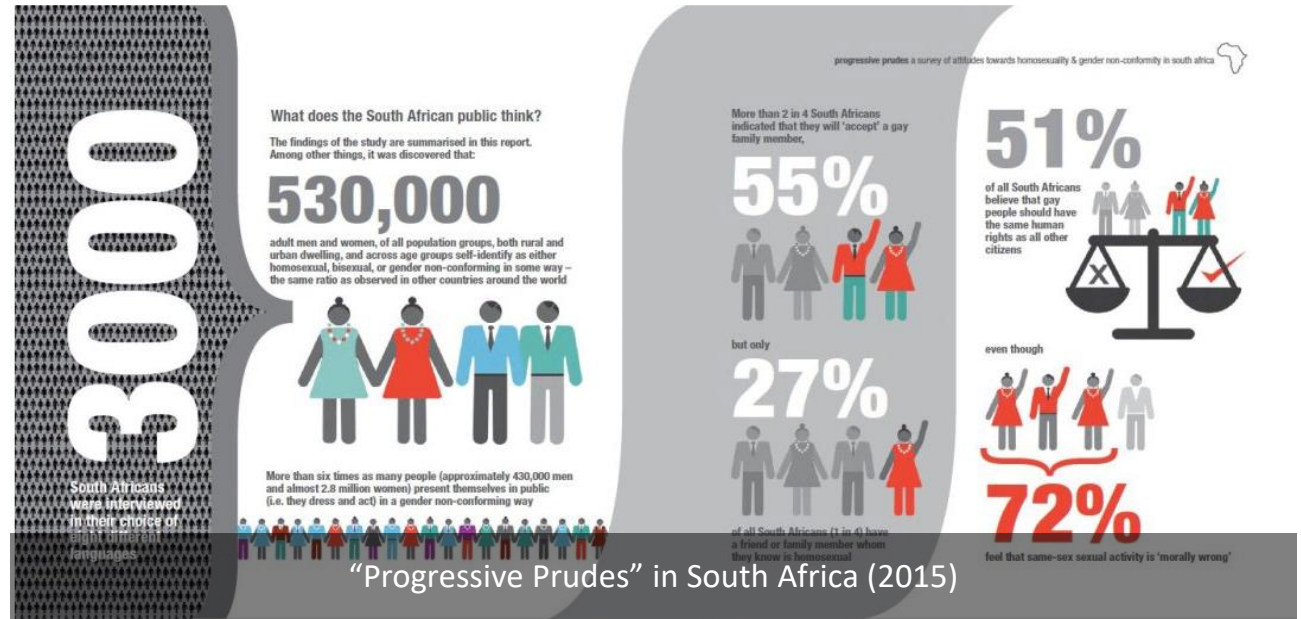


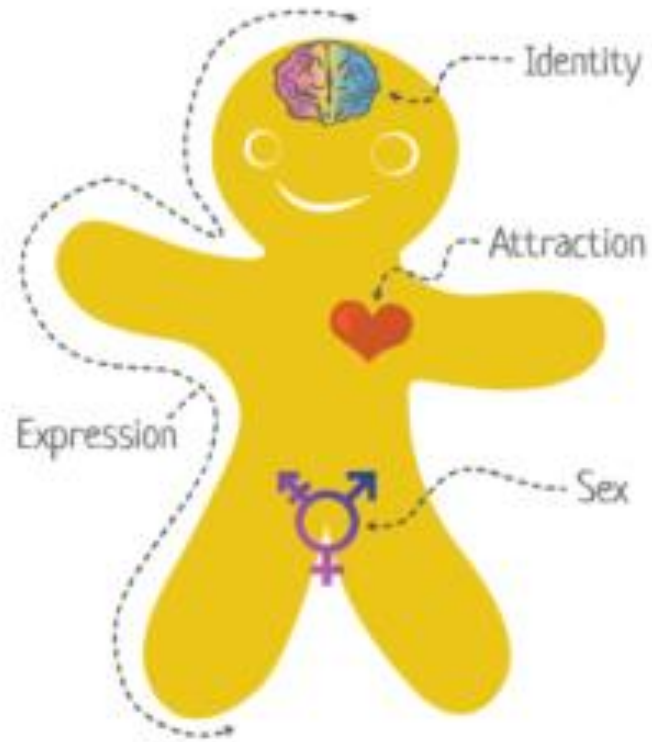
Untangling 'the alphabet soup' in social surveys

(and why it matters)



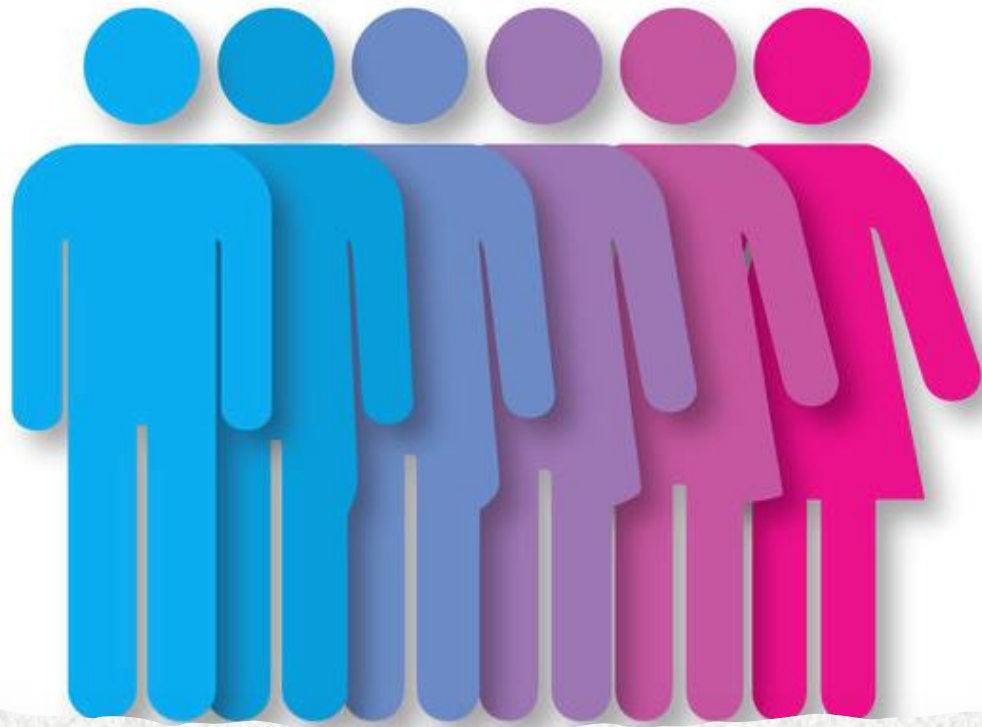
Experiences from two national studies





Step One: Distinguish between

- **Biological Sex**
- **Gender** (identity and expression)
- **Sexuality** (attraction, behavior and identity)



Step Two:
Break the Binary

Biological Sex

(only legal identity)

What is your sex?

Male. Female

What sex were you assigned at birth?

Male. Female. Other

We are collecting this data to compare health outcomes based on biological sex. What sex is recorded on your birth certificate:

Male. Female. Intersex.

Other (please specify).

I prefer not to answer.

Gender Identity

Are you (choose one)

Cisgender

Transgender

Other (please specify)

I prefer not to answer

What best describes your gender, currently and in the past?

Man

Woman

Non-Binary

Gender Fluid/ Gender Queer

Other (please specify)

Do you identify as a [woman]?

- No, not ever
- Yes, in the past but not now
- Yes, currently but not in the past
- Yes, always

Gender Expression

What pronouns do you use?

She/Her

He/Him

They/Them

She/They

He/They

Other (please specify)

What best describes your gender expression / presentation?

Strongly feminine

Feminine

Androgynous / Gender Queer

Masculine

Strongly masculine

Other (please specify)

Sexuality

- **Attraction** (who we are drawn to)
- **Behavior** (who we have sex with)
- **Identity** (community and culture)

- **Spectrum of attraction and behavior:** same gender, opposite gender, both genders, gender-blind, no-one, oneself
- **Structure of Relationships:** monogamous, non-monogamous; single, couples, throuple, polyamorous
- **Identity:** straight, gay/lesbian, bi-, poly, queer

Some final thoughts

- Think very carefully about WHY you are asking identity questions and HOW you will use them
- Explore how best to challenge pre-existing frames of sex, gender, and sexuality
- Developing a post-colonial frame through language and culture
- Progressive Prudes – open ended question about how same sex relationships and gender non-conformity captured very rich data
- Women's Survey – 'other' and 'any additional comments' similarly provided incredible insights

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