Petition for Consideration: Protecting Academic Freedom

Frank Kaufmann
June 17, 2020

Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov was a Soviet geneticist, botanist and agronomist, and collector of one of the world's largest seed banks, who was sentenced to death in July 1941 for defending scientific truths about genetics. While he escaped his death sentence, he lived the last twenty years of his life in a Soviet labour camp, disgraced and ostracised. His crime was to have criticised Lamarckian inheritance–the notion that changes to an organism in its lifetime can be passed on to offspring via genetics. Because Lamarckian inheritance emphasised the importance of the environment it was the favoured evolutionary theory among the socialists and communists of the time, and thanks to the advocacy of Trofim Lysenko, scientists who departed from this orthodoxy were shunned, persecuted, and in the case of Vavilov, sent to a gulag. When the siege of Leningrad occurred, Vavilov and a group of botanists who were holed up in a secret vault, famously chose to starve themselves before consuming their seeds, which they were preserving for the sake of humanity. While Vavilov died in obscurity, he is now recognised as one of the greatest Russian scientists of all time.

Thankfully in 2020, geneticists are not forced to conform to pseudoscientific orthodoxies, no communist dictatorship exists in the West, and nobody is at risk of being sent to a labour camp to spend decades of their life in obscurity. Lysenkoism does not prevail, and scientists accept the reality of Mendelian genetics, most of the time. Nevertheless, ideas of environmental determinism do remain surprisingly persistent. Pseudoscientific ideas that deny biological or evolutionary truths are discussed in Quillette on a weekly basis. If you are reading this now, you will be familiar with them. The most recent example we have highlighted was the "controversy" surrounding JK Rowling for emphasising the reality of biological sex.

Today, another scientist is being persecuted for discussing scientific truths. His name is Stephen Hsu, and he does not work in Russia, or China, but in the United States of America, at Michigan State University. He is being targeted by a Twitter mob and group of post-graduate students for his research and writing, and is being misrepresented and slandered as a "racist" and "sexist" despite condemning racism and sexism repeatedly in his public blog posts and interviews.

You can read the case against Professor Hsu here (keep in mind that many of these allegations are misrepresentations and exaggerations of his work) and Stephen's reply to the charges here. I have been informed that Professor Hsu's job is at risk, and that he may lose his livelihood as early as this Friday.

The mob demanding Hsu's defenestration is being led by a student named Kevin Bird, through his capacity as the President of Michigan State University's Graduate Employee's Union. Bird has said that he is targeting Hsu because he holds an administrative position as the Head of Research and Graduate Studies, yet no evidence of any bias in Hsu's professional activities, let alone sexual or racial

discrimination, has been presented, as far as I am aware. On the contrary, many women and people of colour who've worked with him have testified to his professional integrity.

Bird describes himself as a "democratic socialist" and can be seen on social media celebrating arson and vandalism:

Kevin Bird
@itsbirdemic

Seeing banks and monuments to white supremacy burn is the proudest I've been of America in a long time

3:57 PM · May 31, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

9 Retweets   **136** Likes

Several esteemed academics including Richard Haier and Robert Plomin have signed a counter-petition in defense of Stephen Hsu here. I am writing to you today, to ask that if you are an academic, could you please add your name to the counter-petition, to protect Stephen, but to also defend academic freedom and open inquiry, the foundational principles on which all scientific progress rests.

Claire Lehmann
Editor-in-Chief, *Quillette*

Posted following correspondence with Quiilette EIC. Claire Lehman. in the effort to support this important petition

Quillette

BIOLOGY, MUST READS, SCIENCE / TECH, SEX

Published on June 7, 2020

JK Rowling is Right—Sex Is Real and It Is Not a "Spectrum"

written by **Colin Wright**

JK Rowling recently drew fire on social media for tweeting the statements to the effect that "biological sex is real." The tweets began when she mocked an opinion piece that used the term "people who menstruate" in place of "women" to account for the fact that transgender men also menstruate, and prefer not to be described as women.

The backlash on Twitter has been swift and cacophonous, and headlines have followed. GLAAD, an LGBT advocacy group, issued a response on Twitter, calling Rowling's tweets "inaccurate and cruel." One commenter wrote "I know you know this because you have been told over and over and over again, but transgender men can menstruate. Non-binary people menstruate. I, a 37-year old woman with a uterus, have not menstruated in a decade. Women are not defined by their periods."

Till now, even the most thematically ambitious feminist theorists have acknowledged that sex itself is a real biological phenomenon, and that sexual dimorphism is an important component of human existence as well as human rights. Yet increasingly, such common-sense propositions as JK Rowling's are now cast as hate speech.

As more and more people refer to themselves as trans, nonbinary, two-spirited, and gender-non-conforming, there's been a push to realign the objective reality of biological sex to match one's subjectively experienced gender identity. In the emerging view, the very notion of males and females existing as real biological entities is now seen as obsolete. Instead, some argue, we have only varying degrees of "male-ness" and "female-ness." And so the very idea of segregating sports (or anything, for that matter) using binary sex categories is seen as illegitimate, since, if no definitive line can be drawn, who's to say a purported "male" athlete isn't *really* female?

The view that sex is a spectrum is not confined to fringe critical theorists. It has made inroads into mainstream culture, thanks in part to a highly sympathetic media environment. Even prestigious scientific journals such as *Nature* have given space to authors who argue that "the idea of two sexes is simplistic" and that "biologists now think there is a wider spectrum than that." Another *Nature* editorial insisted that attempts to classify an individual's sex using any combination of anatomy and genetics "has no basis in science." A new book, *The Spectrum of Sex: The Science of Male, Female, and Intersex*, argues this position from cover to cover. Its publisher, a Canadian academic press, gushes that "this transformative guide completely breaks down our current understanding of biological sex."

In February of this year I co-authored a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed on the subject, entitled *The Dangerous Denial of Sex*. Along with my co-author, developmental biologist Emma Hilton, I highlighted the harms that sex-spectrum pseudoscience can impose on vulnerable groups, including children, women, gay men, and lesbians.

Since we were confined to a newspaper op-ed format, Dr. Hilton and I had scant space to explore in detail the actual science of biological sex and the pseudoscience that is sex spectrum ideology. That is the subject of this essay.

* * *

There are two main arguments typically offered in defense of the claim that sex is a non-binary attribute that exists on a "spectrum." The first is based around the existence of intersex conditions—people with intermediate or indeterminate sex characteristics. This argument claims sex cannot be binary if some individuals have sexual anatomy that appears to fall somewhere between male and female. This argument is frequently illustrated with figures that plot intersex conditions along a continuous axis that ranges from "typical female" to "typical male"—as with this widely reproduced figure from the 2017 *Scientific American* article, "Visualizing Sex As a Spectrum."
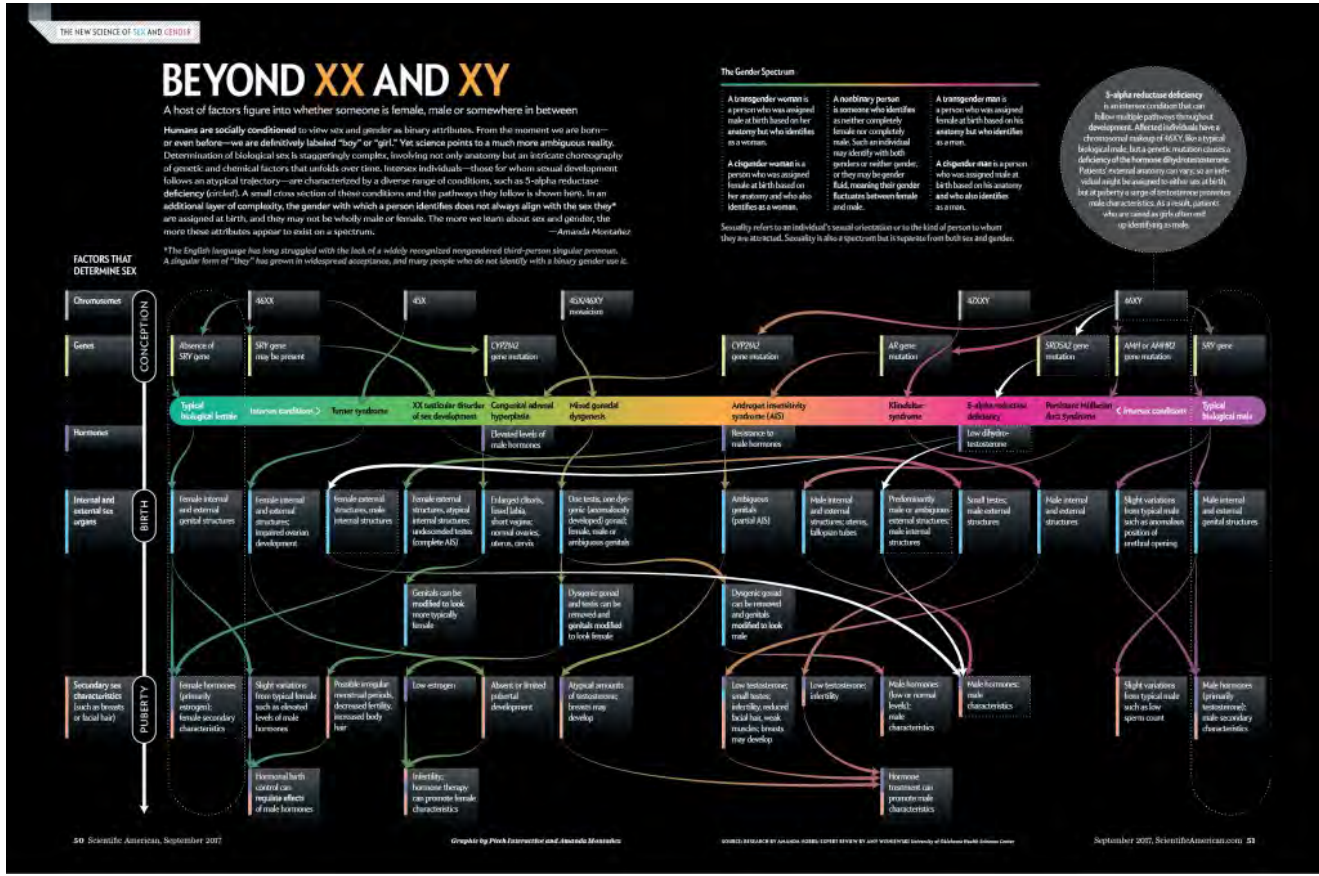
Credit: Pitch Interactive and Amanda Montañez; Source: Research by Amanda Hobbs; Expert review by Amy Wisniewski *University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center*

The second argument typically offered in defense of the sex-spectrum model is based around secondary sex organs and characteristics. Secondary sex organs encompass all elements of our reproductive anatomy—apart from the gonads, which are the primary sex organs. Secondary sex characteristics, on the other hand, are sex-related anatomies that differentiate during puberty, such as enlarged breasts and wider hips in females; and facial hair, deeper voices, more musculature, and broader shoulders in males. Because the distribution of these secondary sex characteristics can overlap between males and females, it is argued we should therefore view biological

sex as a continuum.

This way of thinking about biological sex is now frequently presented to children in school using such cartoon illustrations as The Genderbread Person (shown below). In the purple box labeled "Biological Sex," you'll notice the terms "male" and "female" are not used. Instead, terms denoting the idea of sex as a continuous variable—"male-ness" and "female-ness"—are chosen. Many of the traits listed as defining one's degree of male-ness and female-ness are secondary sex organs and characteristics: genital morphology, body shape, voice pitch, and body hair. Conspicuously absent from this chart is any mention of primary sex organs (gonads, i.e. ovaries and testes in the case of females and males, respectively) or the typical functions associated with sex, such as menstruation in females and ejaculation in males. There is also no mention of eggs or sperm (produced by ovaries and testes, respectively).
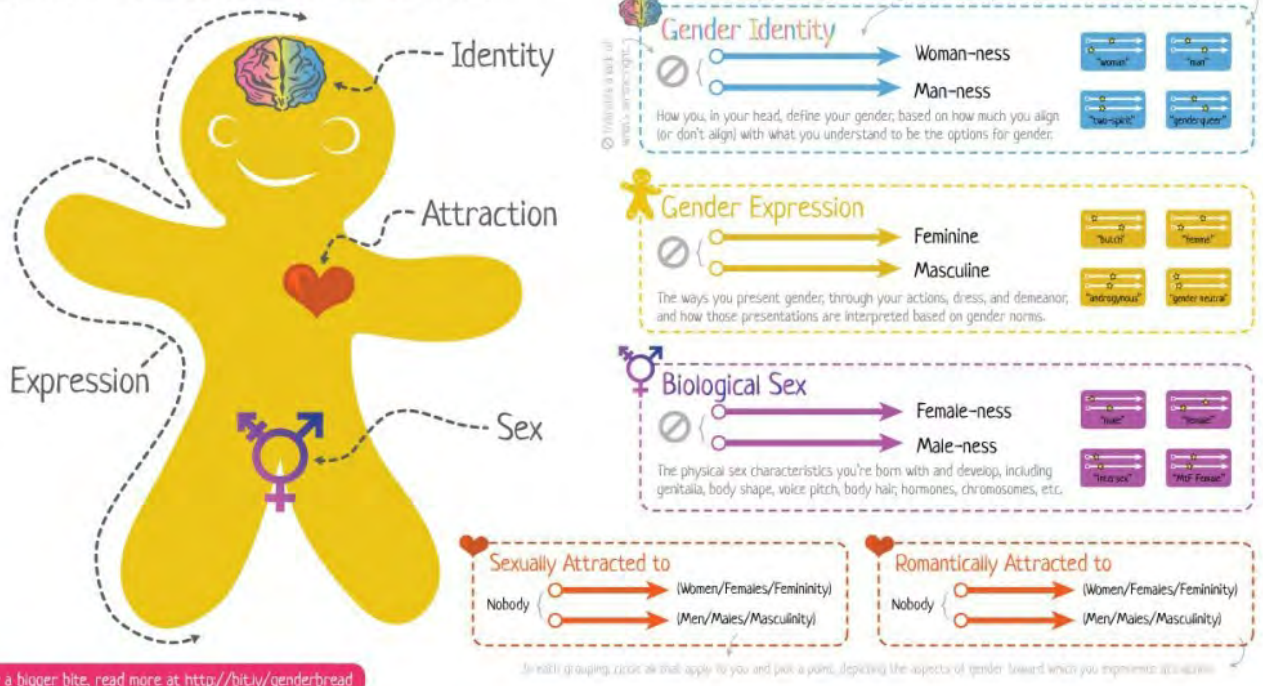
Both of these arguments—the argument from intersex conditions and the argument from secondary sex organs/characteristics—follow from fundamental misunderstandings about the nature of biological sex, which is connected to the distinct type of gametes (sex cells) that an organism produces. As a broad concept, males are the sex that produce small gametes (sperm) and females produce large gametes (ova). There are no intermediate gametes, which is why there is no spectrum of sex. Biological sex in humans is a binary system.

It is crucial to note, however, that the sex of *individuals* within a species isn't based on whether an individual can *actually* produce certain gametes at any given moment. Pre-pubertal males don't produce sperm, and some infertile adults of both sexes never produce gametes due to various infertility issues. Yet it would be incorrect to

say that these individuals do not have a discernible sex, as an individual's biological sex corresponds to one of two distinct types of evolved reproductive anatomy (i.e. ovaries or testes) that develop for the production of sperm or ova, regardless of their past, present, or future functionality. In humans, and transgender and so-called "non-binary" people are no exception, this reproductive anatomy is unambiguously male or female over 99.98 percent of the time.

The binary distinction between ovaries and testes as the criterion determining an individual's sex is not arbitrary, nor unique to humans. The evolutionary function of ovaries and testes is to produce either eggs or sperm, respectively, which must be combined for sexual reproduction to take place. If that didn't happen, there would be no humans. While this knowledge may have been cutting edge science in the 1660s, it's odd that we should suddenly treat it as controversial in 2020.

* * *

That above-cited 99.98 percent figure falls short of 100 percent because of the roughly 0.02 percent who are intersex. (The actual figure is estimated to be about 0.018 percent.) But the claim that intersex conditions support the sex spectrum model conflates the statement "there are only two sexes" (true) with "every human can be unambiguously categorized as either male or female" (false). The existence of only two sexes does not mean sex is never ambiguous. But intersex individuals do not demonstrate that sex is a spectrum. Just because sex may be ambiguous for some does not mean it's ambiguous (and, as some commentators would extrapolate, arbitrary) for all.

By way of analogy: We flip a coin to randomize a binary decision because a coin has only two faces: heads and tails. But a coin also has an edge, and about one in 6,000 (0.0166 percent) throws (with a nickel) will land on it. This is roughly the same likelihood of being born with an intersex condition. Almost every coin flip will be either heads or tails, and those heads and tails do not come in degrees or mixtures. That's because heads and tails are qualitatively different and mutually exclusive outcomes. The existence of edge cases does not change this fact. Heads and tails, despite the existence of the edge, remain discrete outcomes.

Likewise, the outcomes of sex development in humans are almost always unambiguously male or female. The development of ovaries vs testes, and thus females and males, are also qualitatively different outcomes that for the vast majority of humans are mutually exclusive and do not come in mixtures or degrees. Males and females, despite the existence of intersex conditions, remain discrete outcomes.

The existence of intersex conditions is frequently brought up in an attempt to blur the line between male and female when arguing for the inclusion of trans women in female sports and other contexts. But transgenderism has absolutely nothing to do

with being intersex. For the vast majority of individuals claiming either trans or non-binary identities, their sex is not in question. Primary sex organs, not identity, determines one's sex.

In regard to the argument from secondary sex organs/characteristics, the primary flaw is that it confuses cause and effect. Remember, secondary sex characteristics are anatomies that differentiate during puberty. In females, these include (among others) the development of breasts, wider hips, and a tendency for fat to store around the hips and buttocks. In males, secondary sex characteristics include deeper voices, taller average height, facial hair, broader shoulders, increased musculature, and fat distributed more around the midsection. However, these secondary sex characteristics—while plain to the eye, and inseparable from the way most laypeople think about men and women—do not actually define one's biological sex. Rather, these traits typically develop as a *consequence* of one's sex, via differences in the hormonal milieu produced during puberty by either testes or ovaries.

The different developmental trajectories of males and females are themselves a product of millions of years of natural selection, since secondary sex characteristics will contribute to evolutionary fitness in males and females in different ways. Females with narrower hips had more trouble delivering large-headed children, and so those with larger hips had an evolutionary advantage. This wasn't relevant to males, however, which is one reason why their bodies tend to look different. But that doesn't mean that a person's hips—or any of their secondary sex characteristics, including beards and breasts—*define* their sex biologically. These traits, while having evolved due to sex-specific selection pressures, are completely irrelevant when it comes to defining one's biological sex.

Analogies help, so let me offer another one. Bikers ride motorcycles, and cyclists ride bicycles. While these two vehicles share many similarities (two wheels, handlebars, seats, spokes, etc.), they differ in at least one fundamental way. Motorcycles are powered by engines and fuel, while bicycles are powered by pedaling legs. Whether someone is a biker or a cyclist depends entirely on the binary criterion of whether they are riding a motorcycle or a bicycle. This is the *primary* characteristic that defines bikers and cyclists. However, there are also many *secondary* characteristics associated with bikers and cyclists. Bikers, for instance, are more likely to wear leather jackets, jeans, and bandanas. Cyclists are more likely to wear skin-tight spandex. Bikers wear heavy helmets that contain the entire head and include a face-shield. Cyclists typically wear lightweight helmets that cover only the top of their heads.

Many of the secondary characteristics of bikers and cyclists are not arbitrary or coincidental. Like male and female secondary sex characteristics, we can map the utility of biker and cyclist secondary characteristics to their primary characteristics. Bikers wear tough clothes because they travel at higher speeds, which necessitate protective clothing in case of an accident and to mitigate windchill. Cyclists, on the other hand, exert great physical effort pedaling their entire body weight plus the

weight of their vehicle, which necessitates lighter, breathable, wind-breaking clothing and protective gear. Given cyclists' slower crash speeds, the trade-off in favor of less protective gear is worthwhile.

But a person riding a motorcycle wearing a spandex suit and lighter helmet doesn't become a cyclist (or less of a biker) because they share these secondary traits more commonly associated with cyclists. And a person riding a bicycle wearing jeans and a leather jacket doesn't become a biker (or less of a cyclist) by sharing secondary traits more typical of bikers. Just as these secondary traits do not define bikers and cyclists, secondary sex characteristics do not define males and females.

* * *

Because biology is complex, people can be easily swayed with graphs and drawings, especially if they purport to prove something we want to believe anyway—such as the supposedly liberating notion that sex is a spectrum instead of a binary. But a spectrum implies a quantitative axis and, when this is taken seriously, leads to troubling conclusions. One particularly popular graphical depiction presents sex as bimodal—meaning that there are two maxima representing "male-ness" and "female-ness," around which most people tend to cluster. A viral tweet by Twitter user @ScienceVet2, now with over 17,000 retweets, conveyed the bimodal sex spectrum model using a figure similar to the one below.
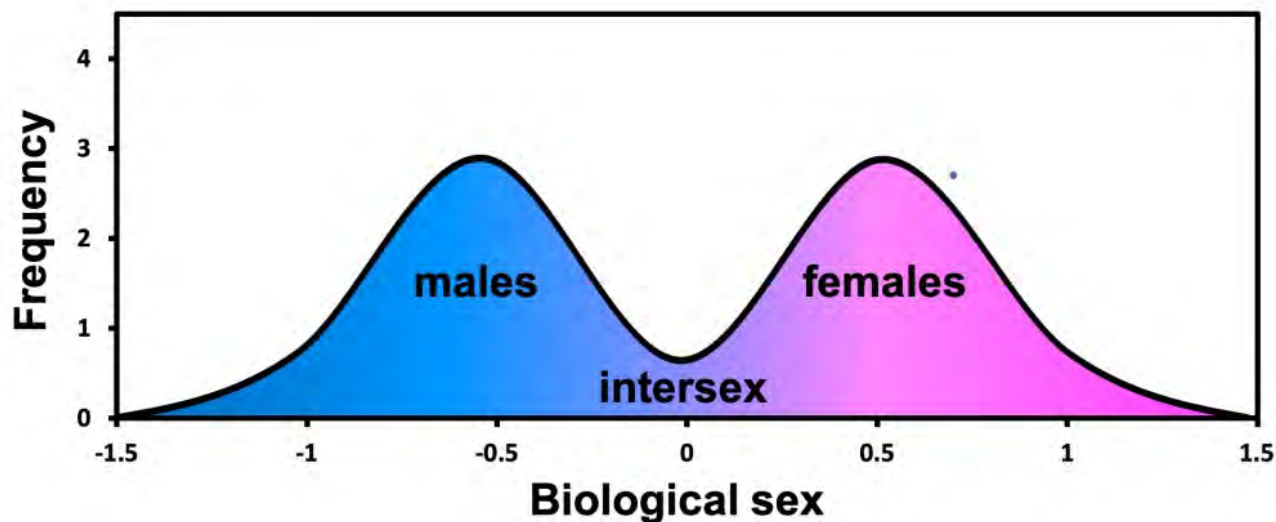
You can see why this sort of representation would prove popular: It accords with our intuitive sense that most of us cluster around a male or female typology, while also preserving the conceit that there is a vast, inhabitable continuum between these two categories. Presumably, one could even take various measurements to determine exactly where along the spectrum we reside.

Again, this all sounds very progressive in theory. But the consequences are regressive in practice, since the indicia of male-ness and female-ness invoked by sex-spectrum

enthusiasts will always be based on sexist ideals and stereotypes that our grandparents would have recognized.

In the modified figure below, is male A "more" male than male B? Is female D "more" female than female C? For decades, we've properly taught our children that this kind of logic is insulting and toxic—that a girl with more masculine features is just as much a girl as her friend with a more stereotypically feminine physique. Whether the figure's x-axis is quantifying genital morphology or an amalgam of secondary sex traits or behaviors, the implication is that tall, aggressive males with thick beards, deep voices, large penises, and higher testosterone are "more" male than short males with meeker personalities who answer to the opposite description. Likewise, females with larger breasts, a more "feminine" waist-to-hip ratio, and less body hair would be considered "more" female than small-breasted, less curvy, hairier females.
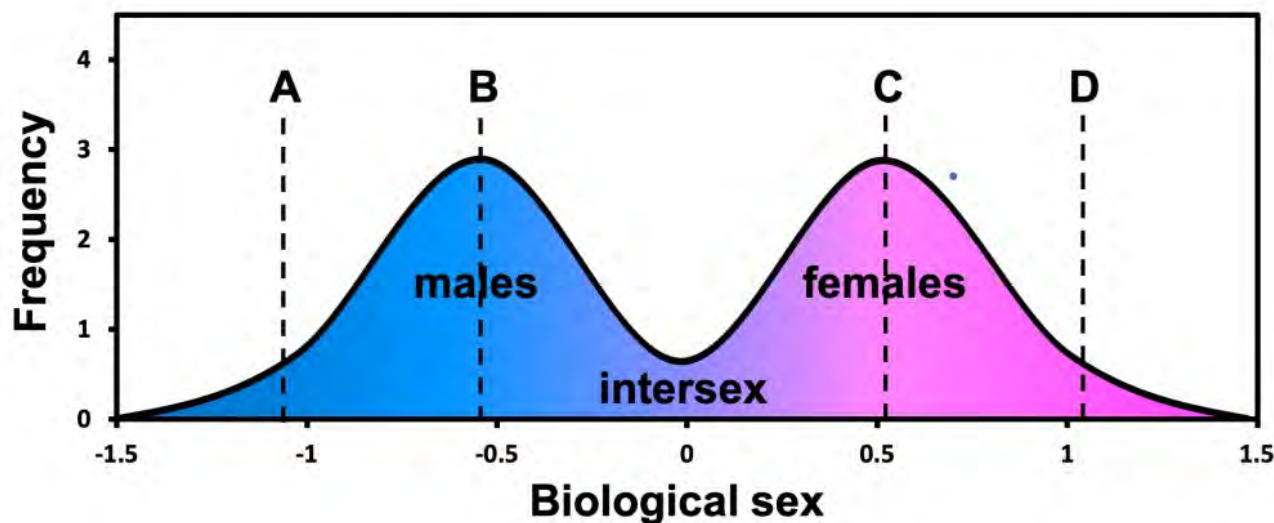
If this sex-spectrum logic strikes you as awfully similar to playground bully logic, you're right. Imagine the following scenario: James, 16, is a very effeminate boy. He gets relentlessly bullied in high school for his feminine appearance and mannerisms. His classmates tease, "What, are you a girl?" His teacher, upon overhearing this, consults his sex-spectrum chart and tells the class: "maybe."

Another worrying corollary of this notion is that surgical intervention on intersex infants (sometimes called intersex genital mutilation) can change an individual's actual location along a pseudo-scientific sex spectrum. A parent may then feel more justified in opting for other "corrective" surgeries, sometimes at odds with an infant's true (gonadal) biological sex, in order to make their child "ideally" (in their minds) more male or more female. To be fair, most sex-spectrum advocates decry surgical intervention on intersex infants (and rightfully so, in my opinion), but fail to consider how their doctrines may encourage such practices.

The promise of sex-spectrum pseudoscience—that one's sex is impossible to definitively determine—has a natural appeal to those who already find themselves wrestling with issues connected to their identity. It's empowering to imagine that we

may have control over something so basic as sex. In *Sex Redefined*, a 2015 article that appeared in *Nature*, authored by sex-spectrum advocate Dr. Claire Ainsworth, the final paragraph reads:

> "My feeling is that since there is not one biological parameter that takes over every other parameter, at the end of the day, gender identity seems to be the most reasonable parameter," says Vilain. In other words, if you want to know whether someone is male or female, it may be best just to ask.

Here Dr. Eric Vilain, a clinician and the director of the Center for Gender-Based Biology at the University of California, Los Angeles, claims that since biological sex cannot be reduced to "one biological parameter" (not true), we should therefore abandon sex classifications altogether in favor of one's entirely subjective gender identity. This is a baffling conclusion since, even if the sex spectrum model were correct, it in no way follows that one can choose where along the spectrum they reside. Furthermore, in Ainsworth's interpretation of Vilain's words, we see a not-so-subtle shift from the claim that sex is a spectrum to the much more extreme claim that sex is arbitrary and meaningless. According to this understanding, a person may literally reimagine their biology, as if by alchemy, by merely stating so. What an astounding power for humans to claim. If only it actually existed.

* * *

Some trans–rights activists have asked why it should be that people like me are so fixated on an issue where the stakes seem so small. But the stakes *aren't* small: If the idea of biological sex can be overturned in the domain of athletic competition, where differences between male and female are abundantly obvious, then the battle to push back sex-spectrum pseudoscience in every other area will be lost—from the admission of males into female prisons and rape-crisis centers, to the facilitation of sex-change surgery for schoolchildren. As Thomas Sowell succinctly stated in his book *The Quest for Cosmic Justice*, "there is only so much divergence between prevailing theories and intractable reality that a society can survive. Yet theories of equality are unlikely to be re-examined—or examined the first time—when they provide a foundation for the heady feeling of being morally superior to a benighted 'society.'"

Advocates of the sex-spectrum model no doubt meant well when these theories originally were developed. After all, who *wouldn't* be partial to an explanation of human biology that validated all of our shifting forms of self-conception and understanding? But over time, it's become clear that they created a false theory of biology that distorts human nature and harms vulnerable individuals. When one attempts to achieve equality and justice by distorting reality, inequality and injustice are never eliminated, just relocated.

Colin Wright is an assistant editor at *Quillette* and holds a PhD in evolutionary biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. You can follow him on Twitter at @SwipeWright.

Related

We 'Gender-Critical' Feminists Pay a Price for Speaking Out. But the Price of Silence is Higher

It's Time for 'LGB' and 'T' to Go Their Separate Ways
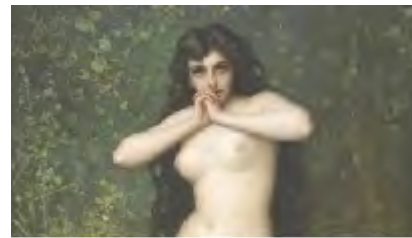
She Who Must Not Be Named

FILED UNDER: Biology, Must Reads, Science / Tech, Sex

Comments

MorganFoster

Yet another example of a progressive socialist being attacked by her own kind.

In my heart, I'm egging the trannies on.

Lord, save her, but not yet.

Stephanie

Great article, very clear on the many layers and intricacies of gender critical insanity. I am most troubled by *Nature* bowing to this ascientific drivel. How do they maintain their self-respect?

Fire Stephen Hsu.

Scientific racism has no place in an equitable and just institution. It has been allowed to flourish at MSU for too long.

UPDATE: Hsu has resigned.

See the statement from MSU here.

We sincerely thank all of you who had the courage to speak out and took the time to engage with this important work.

The reception we received was beyond our imaginings. It is clear this is a deep pain that has been bubbling under the surface at our institution for many years, and we are not done engaging with and trying to heal that damage.

But for now, thank you.

Note: If you would like your name removed from this public-facing site, please let us know. Otherwise, the petition will be updated soon with all names submitted prior to Hsu's resignation.

An Open Letter to Michigan State University

We are faculty, students, support staff, and allies within and outside Michigan State University demanding that Stephen Hsu be removed from his position as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

The concerns expressed by the Graduate Employees Union [twitter] [unrolled] and other individuals familiar with Hsu indicates an individual that cannot uphold our University Mission or our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Given this discordance with university values, Stephen Hsu should not be privileged with the power and responsibility of recruiting and funding scholars, overseeing ethical conduct, or coordinating graduate study.

By signing this open letter we ask MSU to follow through to its commitment to be a diverse and inclusive institution and to change its institutional and administrative practices so that the passion and talent of Black scholars, Indigenous scholars, and other scholars of color (BIPOC) can be recognized and fostered within these university halls.

We currently have **820** signatures. **You can add your signature here.** *Please note due to the nature of the open letter we are unable to completely verify submissions. If your name has been falsely submitted, or if there is an error with your submission, please email president@geuatmsu.org and/or organizing@geuatmsu.org*

Those at MSU are welcome to sign both petitions; this petition is intended to be available to those both inside and outside the institution. The number of signatories of each petition is not meant to be or expected to be mutually exclusive.

Signatories of this letter agree also not to interfere with or harass any counter-petitions which arise. We condemn such measures and will follow up on any reports that our supporters are engaging in any such behavior.

Signatures

Last Update: June 19, 5:27 PM EST

Bolded names indicate population geneticists. We highlight these individuals by their request to emphasize that Hsu's views have no basis in the scientific community.

MSU

Faculty

Dr. Susan Wyche	Associate Professor	Dept of Media and Information
Chris Frilingos	Faculty member	
Dr. Gideon Bradburd	Assistant Professor	Dept of Integrative Biology
Laura Schmitt Olabisi	Associate Professor	
David Lowry	Assistant Professor	Dept of Plant Biology
Laura Chomiuk	Associate Professor	Dept of Physics and Astronomy
Anna Pegler-Gordon	Professor	James Madison College
E. Starr		Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures
Heather L Eisthen	Professor	Integrative Biology
Elizabeth Tinsley Johnson	Assistant Professor	Integrative Biology
John Monberg, PhD		
Rufus Isaacs	Professor	Entomology
Mark Axelrod	Associate Professor	James Madison College/Fisheries & Wildlife
Anthony Kendall	Research Assistant Professor	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Frank A. Fear	Professor Emeritus	College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Name	Title	Department
Meredith L. Gore, PhD		Fisheries & Wildlife
Jim Smith		Lyman Briggs College/Entomology
Kathleen Fitzpatrick, PhD	Professor	Director of Digital Humanities/Professor in English
Carolyn M. Malmstrom	Associate Professor	Plant Biology
Amy Ralston, Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Jyotsna G. Singh	Professor	English
Andaluna Borcila	Associate Professor	James Madison College
Tom Fernandez	Professor	Horticulture
Amara E. Ezeamama	Assistant Professor	Psychiatry
Zarena Aslami	Associate Professor	English
Aaron M. McCright	Professor and Chairperson	Sociology
Amy DeRogatis	Professor	Religious Studies
Susan Stein-Roggenbuck	Assistant Professor	James Madison Colloge
Catherine M. Grosso	Professor	College of Law
Justus Nieland	Professor and Chair	English
Thomas D. Sharkey	MSU Distinguished Professor	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Robert VanBuren	Assistant Professor	Horticulture
Lars Brudvig	Associate Professor	Plant Biology
Vashti Sawtelle	PhD	
Chris Sullivan, PhD		Psychology
Kristin Mahoney	Associate Professor	English
Sarah W. Fitzpatrick, PhD		W.K. Kellogg Biological Station/Integrative Biology
Stacy Hickox, JD		School of Human Resources & Labor Relations
Joshua Lam	Assistant Professor	English

Name	Title	Department
Divya Victor, PhD	Assistant Professor	English
Andrea Wittenborn	Associate Professor	Human Development & Family Studies
Naoko Wake, PhD	Associate Professor	Lyman Briggs/History
David R. Ewoldsen, PhD		Community Sustainability
Robert B. Richardson	Professor	Community Sustainability
Leslie D. Gonzales	Associate Professor	EAD
Erica Frantz	Associate Professor	
Allison Berg	Associate Professor	James Madison College
Bruce Sagan, PhD		Department of Mathematics
Marjorie Weber	Assistant Professor	Plant Biology
Lily Woodruff	Associate Professor	Art, Art History and Design
Jeffrey Conner	Professor	
Keith Promislow	Professor	Mathematics
Richard Lenski	John Hannah Distinguished Professor	Departments of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics; Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences; and Integrative Bology
Rosemarie Handley		
Haddish Melakeberhan	Associate Professor	Horticulture
Peggy Ostrom	Professor	Integrative Biology
Lynmarie Posey	Associate Professor	Chemistry
Courtney Hollender	Assistant Professor	Horticulture
Melanie Cooper	Professor	Chemistry
Dan Chitwood	Asisstant Professor	Horticulture/Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering
Anonymous Professor	Professor	Chemistry
Anonymouse Professor	Professor	Sociology

Name	Title	Department
Leigh VanHandel	Associate Professor	Music
Donatien Pascal Kamden, PhD		Packaging
Elliot Ryser	Professor	Food Science & Human Nutrition
Piotr Piecuch	University Distinguished Professor, MSU Foundation Professor	Chemistry
Jason Gallant	Assistant Professor	Integrative Biology
Benjamin Levine	Associate Professor	Chemistry
Melissa McDaniels	Senior Advisor to the Dean for Research Mentoring	Gradute School & Postdoc Office
Anonymous	Assistant Professor	
Anonymous	Assistant Professor	College of Education
Beth Herbel-Eisenmann	Professor	Teacher Education
Mary Tate Bremigan		Fisheries and Wildlife
Rowenn Kalman	Assistant Professor (NTF)	Anthropology
Maite Tapia	Assistant Professor	School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
Vincent Melfi	Associate Professor	Statistics and Probability
Adán Quan		Anthropology
Anonymous	Professor	Physics & Astronomy
Elizabeth M. Gardener, PhD		Food Science & Human Nutrition
Kay Holekamp	University Distinguished Professor	Integrative Biology
Peter Johnston	Academic Specialist	English
Andrea Louie	Professor	Anthropology
Yelena Kalinski	Assistant Professor - Fixed Term/Associate Director for Research & Publications	H-Net/Art, Art-History & Design
Karen Kelly-Blake, PhD		Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences and Department of Medicine
Scott Boehm	Assistant Professor	Romance & Classical Studies

Name	Title	Department
Janette W. Boughman	Professor	Integrative Biology
Cynthia L. Jordan, PhD	Professor	Neuroscience/College of Natural Sciences Faculty Excellence Advisor
Eric Tans	Librarian	MSU Libraries
Matthew J. Grieshop	Assistant Professor	Entomology
Michael D. Gottfried	Associate Professor	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Pamela C. Rasmussen, PhD		Integrative Biology
Scott Michaelsen	Professor	
Dr. FSH		
Gene Burns	Professor	James Madison College
Barbara Lundrigan, PhD		Integrative Biology
Muraleedharan Nair	Professor	Horticulure
Jeremy Prokop, PhD		Pediatrics & Human Development
Jay Zarnetske	Assistant Professor	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Charles Ofria	Professor	Computer Science & Engineering
Phoebe Zarnetske	Assistant Professor	Integrative Biology
Seth Jacobson	Assistant Professor	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Anonymous	Assistant Professor	
Pamela Ruegg	Professor and Chair	Animal Science
Julius H Jackson	Professor Emeritus; Assoc. Dean Emeritus	Microbiology & Molecular Genetics; The Graduate School
Dar Meshi	Assistant Professor	Department of Advertising and Public Relations
William C. Wetzel	Assistant Professor	Department of Entomology
Mariah Meek	Assistant Professor	Integrative Biology
Steven Stowe,PhD		
Nathaniel E. Ostrom	Professor	Integrative Biology
Sharon L Hoerr,		

RDN, PhD, FACN	Professor emerita	Dept Food Science and Human Nutrition
Susan J. Masten	Professor	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Bree Holtz, PhD		Advertising and Public Relations
Sean Weise	Assistant Professor	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Allison Eden	Associate Professor	Department of Communication
Kathleen Foley	Assistant Professor	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Fredric Janzen	Professor and Director	Kellogg Biological Station
Ashton Shortridge, PhD		Geography, ENvironment, & Spatial Sciences
Eric Torng	Associate Professor/Associate Dean	Computer Science & Engineering/The Graduate School
Catherine Ernst	Professor	Animal Science
Eric Aronoff	Associate Professor	
Emily Josephs	Assistant Professor	Plant Biology
Richard J. Miksicek		Department of Physiology, College of Human Medicine
Jennifer Watling Neal	Associate Professor	Psychology
Zachary Neal	Associate Professor	Psychology
Casey Miles, PhD	Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures	
Kenneth W. Harrow	PhD Emeritus	Department of English
Lewis Siegelbaum	Jack and Margaret Sweet Professor Emeritus	History
Muraleedharan Nair	Professor	Horticulture, CANR
Galia Benitez	PhD	James Madison College

Postdoctoral Researchers

Jackson Helms, PhD	Kellogg Biological Station
Brendan Reid, PhD	Kellogg Biological Station
Zac Johnston, PhD	Physics & Astronomy
Paul Bergeron, PhD	
Acer VanWallendael, PhD	
Abigail Stevens, PhD	Physics & Astronomy
Matteo Tomasini	Integrative Biology

Nate Emery, PhD	Plant Biology
Jennifer Jones, PhD	Kellogg Biological Station
Nathan Haan, PhD	Entomology
Rose Marks, PhD	
Jennifer Wai, PhD	Horticulture
Chris Mancuso, PhD	Research Associate / NIF F32 Fellow, CMSE
Nadya Mamoozadeh, PhD	
Monique Kelly, PhD	Sociology
Shannon O'Leary, PhD	Integrative Biology
Nakia D Parker, PhD	History
Tasha Thompson, PhD	Integrative Biology
Dr. Norman Scheel, PhD	Radiology
Sarah Doore, PhD	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Sophie Picq	
AL Carter, PhD	Kellogg Biological Station
Sarah Crusser, PhD	
Murielle Aalund, PhD	Integrative Biology
David Luecke, PhD	
Andrew W. Thompson, PhD	Integrative Biology
Ben Stein	
Andrea Glassmire, PhD	Entomology
Luciano Silvestri, PhD	CMSE
María Paola Puggioni, PhD	PRL
Erin Zylstra, PhD	Integrative Biology
Danielle J. Whittaker, Ph.D.	BEACON Center & Integrative Biology
SN	PhD

Academic & Research Staff

Erica Fischer, MS			
Caroline Edwards			Plant Biology
Helen Rueckert	Research Technician		Integrative Biology
David Salcedo Tacuma	Research Assistant		Physiology

Name	Title	Department
Taylor Lawrence	Lab Technician	Integrative Biology
Kendra Pyle	Academic Specialist - Advising	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology/Plant Biology
Eleri Thomas	Academic Program Coordinator	Neuroscience
Luke Zehr, MS		Entomology
Kevin Lucas	Professional Aide	
John R. Taylor, PsyD	Supervisory Staff	College of Osteopathic Medicine
Holly Vander Stel		Kellogg Biological Station
Katie Greulich	PhD	Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum
Dessie Clark	PhD	Office of Academic and Student Affairs, CANR
Cheryl Leece	Academic Research Staff (Retired)	Human Medicine
Danny Jackson	Research Assistant	Plant Biology
Moriah Young	Research Assistant	Integrative Biology
M. A. Cinelli, PhD	Senior Research Associate	Biochemistry
R. Ulbrich		
Rachel Jansen		
Charlene Tarsa		
Angie Little, PhD	Senior Research Associate	
Maya Wilson Brown		
Emily Burgess		Kellogg Biological Station
Erik Dams	Accountant & BA Finance '19	Entomology
Nicole Ellefson	Outreach Specialist	

Sarah Eubanks		Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering
Becky Matz, PhD		Hub for Innovation in Learning & Technology
Camilla Peabody	Research Technician	Integrative Biology
Daniel Pfau, PhD	NatSci DEI Training Facilitator	
Nicole Ellefson	Outreach Specialist	
Skylar DeWitt	Research Assistant	Psychology
Jonathan Walkotten	Research Assistant	MSU Center for Community and Economic Development
Carolyn Graham	Lab Technician	Plant Biology
Jesse Traub PhD	Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology Institute of Agricultural Technology	CANR, MSU

Graduate Students

Acacia Ackles	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Kevin Bird	PhD Candidate	Horticulture
McKayla Sluga	PhD Candidate	History
Matthew Andres Moreno	PhD Student	
Kyle Sittig	PhD Candidate	
Alexander Lalejini	PhD Candidate	
Daniel Turner	PhD Student	Entomology
Jeremy Pardo	PhD Candidate	
Meaghan Clark	PhD Student	
itatiVCS	PhD Student	
KBS	PhD Candidate	
Cristóbal Martinez	PhD Student	English & Film Studies
Jaron Adkins	PhD Candidate	
Austin Ferguson	PhD Student	Computer Science & Engineering
Kenyon Cavender	MS Student	Statistics & Probability
Anna Haber	PhD Student	
Rachel Osborn	PhD Candidate	
Erica Holt	PhD Candidate	History

Isabela Borges	PhD Student	Integrative Biology, W. K. Kellogg Biological Station
Julie Jarvey	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Teresa Panurach	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy
CJ Llorente	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy
Rebecca Shay	PhD Candidate	
Brandon Barker	PhD Student	
Rachel Frisbie	PhD Candidate	Physics & Astronomy
Claire Kopenhafer	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy, CMSE
Julian Liber	MS Student	Plant Biology
Brandon Johnson	PhD Student	Neuroscience
KBS	PhD Candidate	
Jeffrey Davis	PhD Student	Philosophy
Jack O'Brien		
Isabella Molina	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy
Jeremy Neefus	PhD Candidate	Philosophy
Kevin McCormick	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Kyle Jaynes	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Josh Shields	PhD Student	
Ellen Weise		
Seth Smith	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Elizeth Cinto Meija	PhD Candidate	
Katherine Skocelas	PhD Student	Computer Science & Engineering
Paul Hamerski	PhD Candidate	
Anonymous Graduate Student		
Serena G. Lotreck	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Jeremy Rapp	MS Student	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Jose Guadalupe Hernandez	PhD Student	Computer Science & Engineering
Chase O'Neil	MS Stduent	Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
Allison Zahorec	PhD Student	Entomology
Matthew Farr	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Eleanore Ritter	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Bruce Stagg Martin	PhD Student	Plant Biology

Juan Carlos Rico Noguera	PhD Student	
MB	PhD Student	
Jeff Burnett	PhD Student	Anthropology
Aimer A. Gutierrez-Diaz	PhD Student	
Sara Hugentobler	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Clayton Oppenhuizen	PhD Candidate	
Michael J. Albani	PhD Candidate	History
Maria Garcia	PhD Student	
Max Helmberger	PhD Student	Entomology
Chris Gottschalk	PhD Candidate	Horticulture
Mackenzie Norman	PhD Student	School Psychology
Andrés Felipe Galindo Olarte	PhD Student	Mathematics
ALM	PhD Student	
Anonymous Graduate Student	PhD Student	Environmental Sciences
Connie A. Rojas	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Kristen Dage	PhD Candidate	Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior
Darren Incorvaia	PhD Candidate	Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior
Olivia Fitch	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Anonymous Graduate Student	PhD Student	Environmental Sciences
Christina Chu	PhD Student	Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
Brad Day	PhD Student	Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
Alexandria Kuhl	PhD Candidate	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Ava Garrison	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology
Vincent Ragusa	PhD Student	Computer Science & Engineering
Evan Brenner	PhD Student	Comparative Medicine & Integrative Biology
ALH	PhD Candidate	
Patrick Abell		Horticulture
Laura Castro	PhD Student	

Name	Position	Department
Briana Williams	PhD Student	Social Psychology
Kathryn Carpenter	MS Student	
Kayleigh Hauri	PhD Student	
Meagan Abel	PhD Student	
Joseph Stachelek	PhD Candidate	
Robert Logan	PhD Candidate	Kellogg Biological Station/Integrative Biology
Danielle Chiaramonte	PhD Student	Ecological-Community Psychology
Brenna Helm	PhD Student	
Grace Krause	PhD Candidate	Anthropology
Ronny Ford	PhD Student	English
Kalia Smith	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Emily Conway	PhD Student	Plant Biology
McKena Lipham	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Nicholas Young	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy, CMSE
Livy Drexler	PhD Student	Anthropology
Riley Pizza	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Shawna Rowe	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology
Alexander Aaring	PhD Student	Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
Zoe Hansen	PhD Candidate	Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Savvas Constantinou	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Thilani Jayakody	PhD Student	
Corbin J. Standley	PhD Student	
Vee Lawson	PhD Student	Writing, Rhetoric, & American Culture
Hannah Franklin Grisham	PhD Student	
Anna Christina Martinez-Hume	PhD Candidate	Anthropology
Sabrina Perlman	PhD Candidate	Anthropology
Ying-Jen Lin	PhD Student	Anthropology
Jack Stack	MS Student	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Edward Glayzer	PhD Candidate	Anthropology
Kyle Frost	PhD Candidate	Psychology
Marcela Omans McKeeby	PhD Candidate	Anthropology

Lissie Arndt	PhD Student	
Brian Samuel Geyer	PhD Candidate	Anthropology
Nick Rowe	PhD Candidate	Economics
Janelle V. LeMon	MA	
AY Odedeyi	PhD Student	Philosophy
Andra Durham	PhD Student	Anthropology
Xandria R. Quichocho	PhD Student	
Qin Shi Huang	PhD Student	Computer Science & Engineering
Amber Bassett		Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences
Nick	PhD Student	History
Tayler Ulbrich	PhD Candidate	History
John Vsetecka	PhD Candidate	History
Abdullah Jabang	PhD Candidate	
Jenna Walters	MS	Entomology
Corinn Rutkoski	PhD Student	Kellogg Biological Station
Matt Hill		Department of Physics and Astronomy
Alex Wright	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Taylor Rupp	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Tracy Montgomery	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Adam Kawash	PhD Candidate	
Miles DeNudt		
McKenzie Javorka	PhD Student	Ecological-Community Psychology
Isaac Lartey	PhD Candidate	
Kellie Walters	PhD Candidate	Horticulture
Kenna D. S. Lehmann	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology/Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior
Gabrielle DOminguez	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Lily Johnson-Ulrich, PhD		
Alice Puchalsky	PhD Student	W. K. Kellogg Biological Station/Integrative Biology
Meredith Zettlemoyer	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology/Kellogg Biological Station
Miranda Wade		Integrative Biology/Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior

Name	Role	Department
Kota Nakasato	PhD Student	
Christian Henry, PhD		
Chad Papa	PhD Student	Forestry
Kriti Seth		
Annika Kohler	MS Student	Horticulture
Catherine Henry	PhD Candidate	Forestry
Joe Karisny	PhD Student	History
Douglas Kirkpatrick	PhD Candidate	Computer Science & Engineering
Megan Machusko	MS Student	Forestry
Clare Carlson	PhD Student	
Brit	Graduate Student	Chemistry
Robert Kincaid Crigler	PhD Candidate	History
Keenan Noyes	PhD Candidate	Chemistry
Courtney Byrant	PhD Candidate	Psychology
Jill Check	MS Student	Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
Nicholas Pigg	MD Student	
Andrew Paton-Glassbrook	PhD Student	Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
Shaylynn Crum	PhD Student	
Ajay Somaraju	MS	
Antoinette Shirley	PhD Student	
Justin Grace	PhD Student	Physics and Astronomy
Daniel Hoffman	MS Student	Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
Kyle Farris	PhD Student	Department of Educational Administration
Erika LaPlante	MS Student	Plant Biology
Olivia Jo Utley	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Kathleen Rhoades	PhD Student	
Eric Stalknecht	PhD Student	Horticulture
Allie Watson	MS Student	
Anonymous	MD Candidate	
Nicole Wonderlin	PhD Candidate	Entomology
Alan E. Yocca	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology
Alyssa Wolfe	PhD Student	Second Language Studies

Erika Vallejo	PhD Student	
Mayson Whipple		
Jen Zavalnitskaya	MS Student	
Caitlin Barker	PhD Student	History
Sara Grady	PhD student	Communication
Benjamin Akey	PhD Student	Anthropology
Luke Gregory	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Michael Ryskamp	PhD Student	Plant Biology
Jocelyn Alisa Dana-Le	Graduate Assistant	Eli Broad College of Business
Samantha Bowden	MS Student	
Danielle Young	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology
Allison Young	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Lauren Collier-Spruel	PhD Candidate	Psychology
Jennifer K. Allen, MSW	PhD Student	School of Social Work
Grant Gliniecki	PhD Student	
Olivia Spagnuolo	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior
Shaylynn Miller	PhD student	
Ali Soltani	PhD	Plant Biology
Joshua Kaste	PhD Student	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Bethany Meadows	PhD student	Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture
Anonymous Graduate Student	PhD Student	Psychology
Emily Dean	PhD Student	
Jorge Nevarez		
Torie Gerlofs-Fritz	PhD Student	History
Sanket Jantre	PhD Candidate	
Anonymous	PhD Student	Electrical Engineering
Igor Bezsonov	PhD Student	Mechanical Engineering
Patrick O'Grady	PhD Candidate	History Department
Anna Wilcoxson	PhD Candidate	
Danika Van Niel	PhD Student	Mathematics
Mikayla Kim	PhD Candidate	Psychology

Anonymous	MS Student	Communication
DJ Rice	Graduate Assistant	Jazz Studies
Manali Dhawan	PhD Student	
Ryan Tilluck	PhD Candidate	Chemistry
Jack Hennes	PhD Candidate	
Ani Hristova	MS Candidate	
Chloe Lewis	PhD Student	Mathematics
Dennis Foren	Ph.D. Candidate	Physics & Astronomy
Yasheen Jadidi	PhD	Chemistry
Mark Suchyta	PhD Student	Sociology, Environmental Science and Policy
Nicolei Gupit	MFA Candidate	Art, Art History, and Design
Marissa Knaak	PhD Student	History
Anonymous } PhD	Teacher Education	
AJ	Ph.D. candidate	
Erik Mueller	MFA	
Paula Mercurio	PhD Student	Mathematics
Annabelle Estera	PhD Candidate	Educational Administration
Jonathan W. Thurston	PhD	English
Craig T. Robertson	PhD Candidate	Media & Information
Christopher Svoboda	PhD Candidate	
Brenna Breshears	MA, LPC, CRC, PhD Candidate	College of Ed, RCE
Connor Drooff	Graduate Student	Earth & Environmental Sciences
Sandra Olenic	PhD Candidate	CMB
Gloria Yarandi		Pharmacology & Toxicology
Zayn Al-Zahid	MS Student	Physiology
Andrew Gerard	PhD Candidate	Community Sustainability
Courtney R. Bingham	PhD Student	
Nathan Poirier	Graduate student	Sociology
Kayleigh Ward	PhD Candidate	Department of Sociology
Kiyoto Tanemura	PhD Student	Chemistry
Kayla Davis	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Katrina Groeller	PhD Student	Sociology

Samantha Westcott	PhD Student	
Madeline Nash	PhD Student	Sociology
Kyle Card	PhD Candidate	Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
Anonymous PhD Candidate	PhD Candidate	
Funmi Ayeni	PhD Student	
Taylor Mills	PhD Student	
Jennifer Lai	PhD Candidate	Sociology
Jihan Mohammed	PhD Candidate	
Laura Twardochleb	PhD Candidate	Fisheries and Wildlife
Rachel Domagalski	PhD Candidate	Department of Mathematics
Vanessa Maldonado	PhD Student	Chemical Engineering and Material Science
Aaron Woodman	DMA Student	
Kahlia Roberts	PhD Student	Philosophy
Aksheya Sridhar	Graduate Student	Psychology
Sara Tahir	PhD student	
Abi Buchanan	PhD student	
Christine P Bennett	PhD Candidate	English Department
David M. Bowers	PhD Candidate	Program in Mathematics Education
Kakia Gkoudina	Ph. D Student	
Ti'Air Riggins	PhD Candidate Biomedical Engineering	
Stephie Kang	PhD Student	Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
Paul Fiesel	PhD Candidate	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Tasha Williams	PhD Candidate	
Anonymous	PhD Candidate	Teacher Education
Ezgi Karaoglu	PhD Student	Sociology
Kara Dobson	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Kaelyn Muiru	PhD Student	English
Joshua Wylie	Graduate Student	Physics
Lucas Al-Zoughbi	PhD Student	Psychology
Susan Beightol	PhD candidate	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Brandon Bavier	PhD Student	

Name	Position	Department
Caley Harris	PhD Student	Physics & Astronomy
Kimberly Alberts	PhD Candidate	
Sophie Bedford	Graduate Student	Chemistry
Jariel Ramirez-Virella	PhD Student	
JoAnn Ballor		
Shelby Wilcox		
Isaac T. Yandow	PhD Student	Physics
Cristhian Gonzalez-Ortiz	PhD Student	Physics and Astronomy
Emma Haines	MS Student	Earth and Environmenta Sciences
Chiwimbo P. Mwika	PhD Student	
Xueming Xue	PhD Student	Earth and Environmenta Sciences
Lindsey Kemmerling	PhD Candidate	Kellogg Biological Station
Aaron Woodman	DMA Student	
Sarah Groendyk	PhD Student	Integrative Biology
Maggie Sawdy	PhD Candidate	Integrative Biology
Emily Milton	PhD Student	Anthropology
Katie Carline	PhD Candidate	History
Ian Gonzalez Afanador	PhD Student	ECE
Travis Johnsiewilliam		
Milos Sretenovic	PhD Student	Dept. Physics and Astronomy
Emily Jennings	PhD Candidate	Plant Biology Dept
Quinn Kolar	PhD Student	
Daniel Priddy	MS Student	Horticulture
Michael Gottschalk	PhD Student	Physics
Natalie Constancio	MS Student	
Kristina Beethem	PhD Student	Sociology
Jennifer Gruber	PhD Student	Ecological-Community Psychology
Madeline Mackinder	PhD Candidaten	

Undergraduate Students

Maggie Haite		Lyman Briggs, Honors College

Alexander Urlaub	Entomology
Nick Confer	Chemistry
Hazel Anderson	Plant Biology
Abigail Seeger	Plant Biology and Statistics
Jackie Brandonisio	Food Sciences
Ally Brown	
Joseph Deschaine	Mechanical Engineering
Andrew Bracken	Residential College of Arts and Humanities
Ralph Arisania	
Jhovonne Fernandez	Media and Information
Huda Warsame	
Jenna Snider	Lyman Briggs
Santiago Rodriguez-Papa	Engineering, Honors College
Cooper Burton	James Madison
Alex Grabowski	
Ren Mueller	
Justin Fernando	
Minali Bhatt	
Reid Eliefson-Frank	
Isabella Allen	
Gabi Meitler	Lyman Briggs
Isabella Kercorian	
Madeline Henneman	
Hannah Carbar	
AD	
Christine Lee	Lyman Briggs, Honors College
Abi Otwell	
Ryann Whalen	Lyman briggs, Honors College
Erika Shiino	Natural Sciences Honors College
Olivia 嚴芳 Moses	Residential College in the Arts & Humanities
Andrew Kelley	
Lea Dyga	BS Student, College of Natural Science
Makaila Rawls	
Anonymous	
Samirah Pulos-Copeland	

Ally Beshouri	James Madison College; Art, Art History, and Design Department
Skyler Leslie	James Madison College
Ally Beshouri	James Madison College; Art, Art History, and Design Department

Organizations

Graduate Employees Union	AFT Local #6196
The Evening Look	Student Publication
EEBB Graduate Group	Graduate Student Organization

Outside MSU

Alumni

Anya Vostinar	PhD	
Tess Huelskamp	Computer Science '17	
Mackenzie Caple	PhD	Kellogg Biological Station
Megan Davis	Physics & Astronomy, BSc '19	current PhD Student, University of Connecticut
Nicole Strobel	Film & Media Studies	current PhD Candidate, UC Santa Barbara
Acacia Costales	James Madison College	
Miranda		
Claudia Allou	James Madison College	
Alex Brown	BA	
Max Hughes	PhD	
Huei Sears	Lyman Briggs College, BSc '17	current PhD Student, Ohio University Dept of Physics & Astronomy
Patric Vaelli	PhD	currently at Harvard University
Georgia Artzberger		
Allie Pail	James Madison College, Social Science	
Alex Galarza	History PhD '17	currently at University of Delaware
Nikolai Yezhov	PhD	
Justin Waraniak		currently PhD Student, North Dakota State University

Dr. Kelsey Yule	PhD	School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, former MSU PostDoc in Integrative Biology
Robert Johnson	MBA	
GlenEllen Lehmberg		
Christian Millan Hernandez	MS Entomology	currently at UUC
Kristen Schmitt	MS Fisheries and Wildlife	
Dr. Eli Strauss		
Emma Baker		
Daniel Parrell	PhD '19	
Emly Toppen	College of Arts & Letters	
Joshua Pang	BA Finance, BS Actuarial Science	
Elizabeth Abdnour		
Kasey Pham	PhD Student	
Karin Rebnegger	PhD	Anthropology
Shaun Phillips		
Maria Raviele	PhD	Anthropology
Rebecca Meuninck	PhD, Anthropology	Deputy Director, Ecology Center
Laleah Fernandez	PhD	
Stephanie White	PhD	
Lesley Yates-Pollard	BA Anthropology '06	currently Graduate School staff- University of Oregon
Lzz Johnk		currently PhD Candidate, Oregon State University
Adam Mackey	Journalism '19	
Isaiah Hawkins		
Mackenzie Mrla	Spartan Teacher	

Name			
Claire Gonyo, PhD			
Han Seitawan		PhD Student	
Elizabeth Medlin			
Natasha Dirckson			
Ryan Knott			
Margaret Rowley	MA/MM	currently Phd Candidate at Boston University	
Emily Toppen	College of Arts and Letters		
CHad Zirbel, PhD			
Cathleen Fry, PhD		currently Postdoc fellow at LANL	
Campbell Thompson	Communication Arts and Sciences		
Alec Manaia	Sociology		
Jenna Pratt	M.Ed		
Piet Braun	BA, Media & Information		
Charles Loelius	PhD Physics, 2014-2017 Vice President/Treasurer, GEU		
Isabela Kadar			
Michelle Rozwadowski	B.S. Neuroscience '18		
Sandi Clement	PhD Microbiology & Molecular Genetics		
Anna C.	BS	Lymans Briggs	
Joban singh			
Kathy Chen	PhD		
Melissa S.	Research Aide	Institute for Quantitative Health, BME department	
Joshua Isaacson	PhD	Physics and Astronomy	
Jeff Johnson		James Madison College and College of Social Science	
Margo Susnjar (Cotter)	Librarian		

Calli O'Keefe	BSN, RN	
Shannon Norris	M.A. Ed	
Elizabeth Gensterblum-Miller	PhD Candidate	University of Michigan
Julie Gensterblum		
Sarah Hession	PhD	Previously Associate Statistician, CSTAT, VPRI
Logan Lindsay	Management Consultant	MSU alumni
L Tolsma		
Robin Eley		
Casey terHorst	Assoc. Prof., Cal State Northridge	former MSU post-doc
Christopher Ray Worst	BS Forestry '18	Forester
Kyndra Sisayaket	DMA Horn Performance, College of Music	
Terri Poxon-Pearson	PhD, 2020	Physics & Astronomy
Carolyn Pratt, PhD	History	
Kath Edsall	DVM	
Gizem Kurt	PhD Physiology	
Elyse Gambino	MFA '17, Art, Art History & Design	
Rhyomi Sellnow	PhD, Cell and Molecular Biology	
Laura Kirby	PhD	
Andrew Schmidt	MS, Engineering	
Chitrak B	PhD student	
Srijan Datta	PhD Student	
Joseph Lee-Cullin,PhD	Albion College	
Elizabeth Pellerito, PhD	Director, Labor Education Program	UMass Lowell
Jill E. Kelly PhD	MSU, 2012	

Matt Kolp, PhD	Formerly EEBB and Plant Biology	
Davon Woodard	PhD Candidate	VT

Other Community Allies

Olivia Borghi	PhD Student	University of Washington Department of Mathematics
Dema K.	PhD Student	
Chris Peritore-Galve	PhD	
Kirke Elsass	PhD Student	Montana State University (Former Michigan resident)
Shan Kothari	PhD student	Plant and Microbial Biology, University of Minnesota
Brandon Locke		Former MSU instructor & curriculum developer
Andrea Slavney	PhD	
Michael Roosa	PhD Candidate	Department of Physics & Astronomy, Texas A&M University
Derek M Anderson	PhD Candidate	Texas A&M University
Benjamin Harris	PhD Candidate	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Gabriel Mathy	Assisstant Professor	American University
Nishant Singh	PhD Candidate	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto
Zachary Park	PhD Candidate	Georgetown University
Levi Gray	Postdoc	Biology Department, University of Kentucky
Hannah Davis		
Martha Reiskind	Research Assistant Professor	North Carolina State University
Cathryn Townsend	PhD	
Michael Evitts	MS	
Rebecca Froebe		
Laura Jessup	PhD Student	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
Jeremy Canfield	PhD Student	Physics, Georgetown University
Heidi Abresch	PhD Student	

Name	Title	Affiliation
Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel	Lecturer & Program Director	
Jacqueline Cambata		
Megan Phifer-Rixey	PhD	
Erica Larson	Assistant Professor	University of Delaware
Annie Smith	PhD	
Aleksey	Undergraduate	Computer Science
Darcy Winslow	MS	Academy for Systems Change
Peter Ralph	PhD	University of Oregon
Kathryn Hebert	PhD	
Young Wha Lee	Biometrics Lead, Excellence in Breeding Platform	CGIAR
Michael D. Edge	Postdoctoral Researcher	UC Davis
Natalie M Wiseman	MD/PhD Candidate	Wayne State University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences
Gaelen McCartney		
Naomi Goldberg	M.ed Student	
Thom Nelson, PhD		
Nicholas Mancuso	Assistant Professor	Prev Medicine, KSOM USC
Alex Clagg		
Andrew Drake		
Stephanie David		
Jonathan Kaplan	Professor	Oregon State University, Department of Philosophy
Morgan Cassidy	Sustainability Specialist	
Madison Flasco		
Anna Rose Beard		
Molly Green	PhD Candidate	UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Anthropology
Jedidiah Carlson	Postdoctoral Researcher	University of Washington

Name	Title	Affiliation
Nancy Dordal	JD Candidate	University of Maryland Baltimore
Erin Moran		
Jake Weissman	Postdoctoral Scholar	Biology, USC
Brandon S. Cooper	Assistant Professor	University of Montana
Viktorya		
Kristen Hairston		
João Gabriel Rabello Sodré	PhD Student	History, Georgetown University
Melanie Schmitt	MHA	
Sruthi Gohimukkula	MD Candidate	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University
Kathleen Gleason	Reporter	LCC Radio
Nina		
Alexndria Barkman	PhD Candidate	University of Hawaii
Elliott Brennan		
Adam Clare Herman	PhD	University of Minnesota
André Hudson	Professor/Head	Rochester Institute of Technology, Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences
Olivia Guest	PhD	
James Lingford	Research Assistant	University of Melbourne
Mark Hibbins	PhD Candidate	Indiana University Department of Biology
Yilen Gomez Maqueo Chew	Research Professor	Instituto de Astronomia UNAM
Antigona Segura	PhD	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Zoha S.	PhD Student	
James McGuire		
Sarah Turner-Hissong	PhD	
Esse Tran Morgaine	MSc	MIT
Jeremy B. Yoder	Assistant Professor	Biology, CSU Northridge

Mauna Dasari	Phd Candidate	Ecology, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame
Rodolfo Palma		
Ivan Baxter	Principal Investigator	
Matthew R. Fox		Northumbria University
Gabriel Stephens	PhD Candidate	Baylor College of Medicine, Neuroscience Department
Alejandra Canales	PhD Candidate	Neuroscience, UW-Madison
Nicholas Bray	PhD	Broad Institute
Melanie Schmitt	MHA	
Mai-Ly Tran		University of Michigan
Cameron Clarke	PhD Student	Stony Brook University, Department of Physics & Astronomy
Anonymous	MD Student	Drexel University College of Medicine
Leslie Abraham	MD Candidate	
William Shoemaker	PhD	UCLA
Ali		
Isabella dela Cruz	MS Physician Assistant	UDM
Robert Hill, PhD		Northwestern University
Elenna Capote	PhD Student	
Denyz Melchor	PhD Student	UCLA Astronomy
Kristen Connor	PhD Candidate	University of Michigan, Anthro-History
Lawrence H. Uricchio, PhD		University of California, Berkeley
Jennifer Zanchez	Undergraduate in Physics	
Jeremy J Berg, PhD	University of Chicago	Department of Human Genetics
Zack Furness, PhD		
Kayleigh Hood	PhD Candidate	IU Ecology Evolution and Behavior
Samuel Rodriguez	MS Student	Physics
Page Welsh	Dual English MA/MFA Candidate	Chapman University

Name	Role	Institution
Lauren Gillespie	PhD Student	Stanford University
Emma Whittington, PhD		
Jerushah Gracey	MS Student	
Davis Weaver	MD/PhD Candidate	Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Paige		
Nancy Chen, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	University of Rochester
Emily D Armbruster,PhD		CUNY Advanced Science Research Center
Stephanie Yuan	Undergraduate	University of Florida
Pete Shanks	Writer	
Megan Dean	PhD	Philosophy (Bioethics)
Jordan Hoffman		
Daniel Dana-Le		Grand Ledge Public Schools
David desJardins	PhD	
Lindsay Hendrickson	Student of Physical Therapy	University of California, San Francisco
Deni Malone		
J. Djugashvili	MA	
Michael D. Mouse	B.Sc M.Comm	
Lizzy Trower	Assistant Professor	

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Name	Role	Institution
Haley Yaremych	PhD Student	Vanderbilt University
Kimberly Eley		
Ari Ne'eman	PhD Student (Health Policy)	Harvard University
Joann Maldonado Torres		
Erin Drabicki		UofM Alum
Abby Manning	Registered Nurse	UofM Alum

Name	Role	Affiliation
Linda K. Cromwell		
Radolphis Bonnette		
Anusha Sinha	MS Student	Carnegie Mellon University
Joanna Koch		
Eric Anderson	PhD	
Galen Martin	PhD Student	UCI Ecology & Evolutionary Bio
Jasmine Sears	PhD	Optical Science
Jessica Slater	PhD	
Lauren Lees	PhD Student	
Brooke		
Daniela Bonafede-Chhabra	PhD	
Lars Kuhn	PhD	
P Webb	M Ed	
Ben Kolb	PhD student	Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University
Toni Pitts	MS	
Stephanie Kwan	PhD Student	Princeton University Physics Department
Ben Assa		Caltech alum
Zenith Tandukar	PhD Student	Agriculture & Plant Genetics
Tucker Reese		Caltech
Grace Toy		Poet & Writer
Tony W.	MS	
Michele Markstein	Assistant Professor	Biology Department, UMass Amherst
Aaron Norton	PhD	California Institute of Integral Studies
Zachary Caple	PhD	University of South Florida
Radolphis Bonnette		
Emily Ladi	MS Student	Biology, Cal State University Northridge
Matias Kaplan	PhD Candidate	Stanford Bioengineering
John Connolly	PhD Student Albert	Einstein College of Medicine
Matthew Carr	PhD Student	Ohio State University

Name	Role/Degree	Affiliation
E. N. Whitson	PhD candidate	Binghamton University, Department of Anthropology
Maxwell M. Forton	PhD Student	Binghamton University, Department of Anthropology
Mohi Kumar	MS, MA	
Solomon Stavrov, PhD	Tel Aviv University	
Tali Faris-Hylen		
Megan Dean,PhD		Philosophy (Bioethics)
Aaron Dockser		
Mardez Wheatley		
Ariel Parker	PhD Candidate	
Kaleb Johnston		
Leslie Turner,PhD	Milner Centre for Evolution	University of Bath
Maria Salinas		
Nadine Michel	PhD	
Jessica Kassim		
Elias Trout	Undergraduate	Brandeis University
Lisa Couper MS	PhD Candidate	Biology, Stanford
Matthew J. Brown	Professor Philosophy and History of Ideas	The University of Texas at Dallas
Stephanie Noble	Postdoctoral Associate	Radiology & Biomedical Imaging, Yale University
Carol Miller	PhD	
Stephen D. Alkins, Ph.D.	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer	
Colleen Delaney, PhD	Professor	Anthropology, CSU Channel Islands
Rob Wilson, PhD		Philosophy, University of Western Australia
Mandy McFarlane		
Anayvelyse Allen-Mossman	PhD Candidate	Columbia University, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures
Maria Gonzalez		
Alexa Lalejini	School Librarian MLIS	

Name	Title	Affiliation
Elisira Auchter		
Rebecca Woods	MS	
Stephanie Moore		Women's Studies
Sarah Wicks		
Theresa Burnham	PhD Candidate	
Sumeet Patwardhan	PhD Candidate	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Marcy Darnovsky	Executive Director	Center for Genetics and Society
Katja Thieme	PhD	University of British Columbia
Milton Reynolds		Educator
Ram Kodali		
Marshall Kelly		

President Samuel L. Stanley
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Dear President Samuel L. Stanley:

We, the undersigned, write out of concern with the risk of principles of academic freedom, scientific integrity, and fair play currently posed at Michigan State University (MSU) because of baseless allegations against a respected colleague, Dr. Stephen Hsu, VP for Research and Innovation.

The charges of racism and sexism against Hsu are unequivocally false and the purported evidence supporting these charges ranges from innuendo and rumor to outright lies. (See attached **letters** for details.) We highlight that there is zero concrete evidence that Hsu has performed his duties as VP in an unfair or biased manner. Therefore, removing Hsu from his post as VP would be to capitulate to rumor and character assassination.

President Stanley, you have the unique opportunity to show the leadership required to guide this great institution of higher learning through a difficult situation during this pivotal moment in history. The power is in your hands to reaffirm free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the academic institutions and show how they align with the other values to which we are all committed and have spent time and energy promoting. The voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. Instead, true diversity flourishes best under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that views be evaluated on the basis of cogency of the supporting reasoning and strength and internal consistency of the accumulated evidence rather than the identity, power, number, or vociferousness of the people expressing them. Free inquiry is the most democratic and most inclusive method of engaging with the world.

A university must simultaneously uphold the ideals of inclusion and freedom of inquiry. With respect to the latter, if faculty feel uncomfortable investigating "difficult" questions—the answers to which may or may not agree with a particular belief or view, and

may even be unsettling—then the faculty will eventually stop asking those questions. In turn, the university will cease to be a leader in addressing the most difficult problems that society faces. Ideology will become the major force in the faculty's scholarship.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views, or for inquiring about controversial topics, or for simply talking to controversial personalities, based on the number of people demanding he be removed and the intensity of their demands would be to capitulate to a pre-enlightenment approach to the academy – and to incentivize the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also set a dangerous precedent, inconsistent with the fundamental principles of modern enlightened higher education.

Professor Hsu is a thoughtful, decent, and compassionate human being who approaches complex questions with honesty and openness. To allow Hsu to be removed by falsehoods and innuendos would be to concede that there is no place in the academy for someone who has committed no crime or injustice toward any individual, but merely disagrees with the prevailing orthodoxy.

There is no question that the push for racial justice and equal rights has been and continues to be a noble and important cause. In the narrow case, removing Hsu from his position will in no way advance this cause. In the general case, removing Hsu will do permanent damage to the university and will undermine the core values that we must uphold.

Information Processing

Pessimism of the Intellect, Optimism of the Will   Favorite posts | Manifold podcast | Twitter: @hsu_steve

Steve Hsu

View my complete profile

Twitter Attacks, and a Defense of Scientific Inquiry

I have not responded to these nasty Twitter attacks, but unfortunately they have gotten enough traction that I feel I need to respond now. [Note: I have been informed that some of the signatures on their petition are fake, including one purported to be from my colleague Corey Washington! See counter petition and support letters on my behalf.]

The attacks attempt to depict me as a racist and sexist, using short video clips out of context, and also by misrepresenting the content of some of my blog posts. A cursory inspection reveals bad faith in their presentation.

**The accusations are entirely false -- I am neither racist nor sexist.**

The Twitter mobs want to suppress scientific work that they find objectionable. What is really at stake: academic freedom, open discussion of important ideas, scientific inquiry. All are imperiled and all must be defended.

One of the video clips is taken from an interview I did with YouTuber Stefan Molyneux in 2017. Molyneux was not a controversial figure in 2017, although he has since become one. Prominent scientists working on human intelligence who were interviewed on his show around the same time include James Flynn and Eric Turkheimer. (Noam Chomsky was also a guest some time after I was.) Here is what I said to Molyneux about genetic group differences in intelligence:

Here is a similar interview I did with University of Cambridge PhD student Daphne Martschenko:
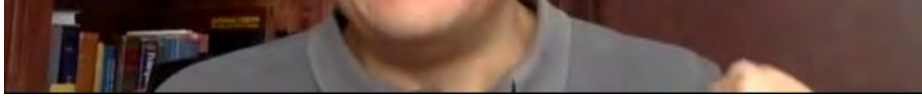
As you can see, contrary to the Twitter accusations (lies), I **do not** endorse claims of genetic group differences. In fact I urge great caution in this area.

The tweets also criticize two podcasts I recorded with my co-host Corey Washington: a discussion with a prominent MSU Psychology professor who studies police shootings (this discussion has elicited a strong response due to the tragic death of George Floyd), and with Claude Steele, a renowned African American researcher who discovered Stereotype Threat and has been Provost at Columbia and Berkeley. The conversation with Steele is a nuanced discussion of race, discrimination, and education in America.

The blog posts under attack, dating back over a decade, are almost all discussions of published scientific papers by leading scholars in Psychology, Neuroscience, Genomics, Machine Learning, and other fields. The papers are published in journals like Nature and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. However, a detailed reading is required to judge the research and related inferences. I maintain that all the work described is well-motivated and potentially important. Certainly worthy of a blog post. (I have written several thousand blog posts; apparently these are the *most* objectionable out of those thousands!)

In several of the blog posts I explicitly denounce racism and discrimination based on identity.

This paper, from 2008, discusses early capability to ascertain ancestry from gene sequence. The topic was highly controversial in 2008 (subject to political attack, because it suggested there could be a genetic basis for "race"), but the science is correct. It is now common for people to investigate their heritage using DNA samples (23andMe, Ancestry) using exactly these methods. This case provides a perfect example of science that faced suppression for political reasons, but has since been developed for many useful applications.

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2008/01/no-scientific-basis-for-race.html

This 2016 paper is by the UCSD Pediatric Imaging, Neurocognition, and Genetics collaboration. They claim that fMRI features of brain morphology can be predicted by genetic ancestry via machine learning.

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2016/03/genetic-ancestry-and-brain-morphology.html

These blog posts discuss the firing of software engineer James Damore by Google over a memo on diversity practices. The first post describes the legal situation and quotes a professor of labor law at Notre Dame. The second compares the claims made in Damore's memo to an article in the Stanford Medical School magazine, which covers similar material and was (by coincidence) published around the same time.

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2017/08/damore-vs-google-trial-of-century.html
https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2017/08/meanwhile-down-on-farm.html

These papers discuss evidence from large DNA datasets for recent natural selection in human evolution. This research has been attacked for political reasons, but should be defended since it addresses fundamental questions in deep human history and evolution.

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2018/10/the-truth-shall-make-you-free.html

Regarding my work as Vice President for Research, the numbers speak for themselves. MSU went from roughly $500M in annual research expenditures to about $700M during my tenure. We have often been ranked #1 in the Big Ten for research growth. I participated in the recruitment of numerous prominent female and minority professors, in fields like Precision Medicine, Genomics, Chemistry, and many others. Until this Twitter attack there has been *not even a single allegation* (over 8 years) of bias or discrimination on my part in promotion and tenure or faculty recruitment. These are two activities at the heart of the modern research university, involving hundreds of individuals each year.

Academics and Scientists must not submit to mob rule.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:48 PM   134 Comments