

Definition of "Cisgender"

Pronounced *SIS-jen-DER*.

Related terms include cishet, cisnormativity, and cissexism.

"I'm am cisgender: although I'm a tomboy, I've been identified as a girl my whole life and I have always considered myself to be a woman."

Often shortened to "cis," **cisgender** is a term used frequently in the intersectional, feminist, LGBT+, and transgender communities. It is an adjective used to describe someone whose gender identity matches their body and the gender assigned to them at birth-- in other words, someone who is not transgender, nonbinary, or intersex. A cisgender person might be an AFAB who identifies as female or an AMAB who identifies as male.

Cisgender individuals are not necessarily people who express or embody only gender-typical or gender-stereotyped behaviors. A cisgender woman, for example, might have a masculine gender presentation (i.e. butch) but still identify herself as a woman. Likewise, AMABs who are gay, queer, bisexual, pansexual, effeminate, sissy, or atypically masculine are still cisgender men so long as they identify themselves as men.

The word cisgender was first used in 1995 in the peer-reviewed article "Transsexueller Wunsch und Zissexuelle Abwehr," or "Transsexual Wish and Cissexual Defense," by German sociologist Volkmar Sigusch. It was developed as a complement to transgender, since cis-, meaning "on this side of," is used in Latin as an antonym to "trans-, meaning across from."

Definition of "Cisnormativity"

Pronounced "sis-NOR-muh-TIV-ih-TEE."

Related terms include cisgender, heteronormativity, gender essentialism, and cissexism.

"The speaker said, 'All women need annual pap smears,' and while I appreciated the message, I could have done without the cisnormativity."

Cisnormativity is the assumption that all, or almost all, individuals are cisgender. Although transgender-identified people comprise a fairly small percentage of the human population, many trans* people and allies consider it to be offensive to presume that everyone is cisgender unless otherwise specified.

Examples of cisnormativity are closely linked to gender essentialism and may include statements like, "Men can not get pregnant." Although cisnormativity is rarely deliberate, it is almost always perceived as hurtful and offensive to the Trans community. At best, cisnormativity contributes to the erasure of trans* and nonbinary experiences. At worst, it is part of a deliberate and calculated system of oppression that includes institutionalized cissexism and transphobia.

The word cisnormativity was first used in the 2000s, but its first recorded academic use was in The Journal of the International AIDS Society in 2012. It is a combination of the prefix cis-, as in cisgender, and the suffix -normativity, as a complement to heteronormativity.

Source: <http://queerdictionary.blogspot.ca/>