



A ZINE EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF THE
PATHOLOGIZATION OF QUEER PEOPLE.

CW: TRANSPHOBIC TERMINOLOGY

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IN THE WESTERN SCIENCES, QUEERNESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN TIED TO HEALTH.

For many years,
queerness was
considered a sexual
deviation, perversion,
or what we might
recognize today as a
mental illness or
psychological disorder.

Today, queerness is
still viewed through
the lens of
physiological or
psychological
medicine.

A TIMELINE OF DIAGNOSTIC HISTORY:

Homosexuality is deemed "indicative of psychopathology" and downgraded to a sexual deviation appearing alongside fetishism, pedophilia, transvestism, and exhibitionism.

1968
DSM-II

1952
DSM-I

The first Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is published. Homosexuality is deemed a "sociopathic personality disturbance."

1973

The American Psychological Association (APA) removes homosexuality from the DSM. Gender Identity Disorder in Childhood (GIDC) is added.

Gender Identity Disorder appears and is described as a "persistent and strong cross-gender identification and persistent unease with one's sex."

**1994
DSM-IV**

**1980
DSM-III**

Transsexualism and Gender Identity Disorder appear as diagnostic categories.

**2022
DSM-IV-TR**

Lists Gender Dysphoria as a current diagnostic category.

HEALTH AS A SIGNIFIER OF NATIONAL MORALITY.

Biomedicine used to be primarily focused on curing ailments, but at some point in post-industrialized world, it became a point of achieving national supremacy.

To be in good health became part of the "norm" of Western societies (i.e. white, male, middle class, educated, and now, *healthy*).




Throughout history "sexual health in medical research and clinical practice has been conflated with prevailing social norms" (Spurlin, 2022), meaning...



**SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
IS FILTERED THROUGH THE
CURRENT CULTURAL
ASSUMPTIONS OF THE TIME.**

In a transphobic and homophobic society, nonconforming gender identities and sexualities were viewed through the lens of deviance and social danger.

The alienation and stigma created by the medicalization of queerness are dangerous on a societal and physical level.



**PATHOLOGIZATION
IMPEDES HEALTH
OUTCOMES FOR
QUEER PEOPLE.**

Queerness can be many things, but it is never something that needs to be cured.



CITATIONS:

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