

# A New Perspective on Sexual Orientation



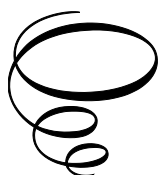
# A New Perspective on Sexual Orientation:

*Theory Meets Reality*

By

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**Cambridge  
Scholars  
Publishing**



A New Perspective on Sexual Orientation: Theory Meets Reality

By Brad Bowins

This book first published 2023

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

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ISBN (10): 1-5275-1255-X

ISBN (13): 978-1-5275-1255-9

Dedicated to my wife, Lynne, and children—  
Emma, Mark, and Breanna.



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## IN BOOK TEXT

Numerous theories have been proposed to explain sexual orientation, with these perspectives guiding research. However, we still do not understand the true nature of sexual orientation, conjecture far outweighing proven fact. A major problem consists of sexual orientation theories being generated without due consideration of criteria for a robust theory. This book provides twelve comprehensive criteria for a robust theory of sexual orientation, and applies them to major biological, evolutionary, and psychosocial perspectives. Performance on the theory criteria aligns with weak research support. With the twelve theory criteria as a guide, a novel four-component approach to sexual orientation is proposed. In combination, homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions, activation/deactivation of these dimensions, erotic fantasy, and social construction, comprehensively define sexual orientation. Many fascinating and revealing sexual orientation occurrences are explained by the four-component theory, including the intersection of transgender and sexual orientation.

## PREFACE

We are all aware of sexual orientation and its influence on sexual behavior, but the true nature is elusive even to this day. Reflecting this lack of understanding, numerous theories have been generated to explain sexual orientation, with the theories guiding research. However, despite extensive investigations there is no clear answer as to what sexual orientation is. Conjectures far outweigh proven fact. A major problem pertains to how theories of sexual orientation are generated, without first establishing criteria for a robust theory. If it is not clear what such a theory must account for, then how can it possibly succeed in accurately capturing the nature of the variable in question? Correcting this error of process, I first present twelve comprehensive criteria for a robust theory of sexual orientation. Major biological, evolutionary, and psychosocial theories of sexual orientation are then evaluated based on these criteria. The weaknesses of existing perspectives in relation to the twelve criteria, combined with an appreciation of what a robust theory of sexual orientation must fully address, informed development of a four-component approach: homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions, activation/deactivation of these dimensions, erotic fantasy, and social construction. Evaluation of major perspectives utilizing the evaluation criteria and the four-component approach are presented in two sections:

## SECTION 1: EVALUATING SEXUAL ORIENTATION THEORIES, in separate chapters covers:

**CRITERIA FOR A ROBUST THEORY OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION:** Twelve criteria derived from the author's experience conducting theoretical research, extensive research pertaining to existing theories of sexual orientation noting critiques, and the lessons of history relevant to sexual orientation theories, are presented and elaborated upon:

- Continuous versus discrete
- Behavior versus identity
- Accounting for homoerotic behavior in animal species
- Explain the evolutionary paradox
- Distinction between sexual orientation and gender
- Diversity, fluidity, and flexibility
- Solid account of bisexuality
- Sufficient complexity
- Research integrity
- Multidisciplinary
- Applicable to female and male sexual orientation
- Reduce discrimination and persecution

**BIOLOGICAL THEORIES:** Numerous biologically-based theories of homosexuality and sexual orientation have been proposed, fitting into the categories of genetic, neural structures, neurohormonal, and physical features outside the brain, the latter consisting of long bones, height and weight, sensory systems, 2D:4D ratio, handedness, and the maternal immune hypothesis (fraternal birth order effect). Regarding physical features outside of the brain, in some instances a formal theory is not provided, but the underlying assumption is that the physical feature plays a role in homosexuality, often via neurohormonal and/or neural structure influences. A brief

overview, the research evidence, and performance on the twelve theory criteria is provided for each category of explanation.

**EVOLUTIONARY THEORIES:** These theories attempt to explain the paradox of how homosexuality could evolve when it blocks reproduction. Explanations based on gene number include: heterozygote advantage, balanced polymorphism, and antagonistic selection. Kin selection (inclusive fitness) suggests that relatives of homosexual men have a fitness advantage due to enhanced assistance. For each theory a brief overview, the research evidence, and application of the theory criteria is covered.

**PSYCHOSOCIAL THEORIES:** Psychoanalytic and behavioral perspectives have been the most influential. Behavioral accounts include classical and operant conditioning. A brief overview, the research evidence, and application of the theory criteria is provided for the psychoanalytic and behavioral conjectures. Queer theory and feminist perspectives are not presented because they primarily deconstruct existing theories, as opposed to being actual theories of sexual orientation, and as such applying the criteria for a robust theory of sexual orientation is not feasible.

**SECTION 2: MERGING THEORY WITH REALITY: A FOUR-COMPONENT APPROACH TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION,** covers in individual chapters:

**HOMOEROTIC AND HETEROEROTIC DIMENSIONS:** Even though sexual orientation is commonly understood as an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to men, women, or both sexes, the actual nature of this complex entity is unclear. Addressing this issue, the true

nature of sexual orientation is explored, and the flaws inherent in discrete homosexual and heterosexual identities discussed. Various dimensional options have been proposed, the most optimal consisting of separate homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions. Origins of these dimensions are investigated noting their presence in numerous animal species varying in cognitive capacity from insects to primates, with the homoerotic dimension serving various evolutionary fitness enhancing functions. Human homoerotic behavior is then focused on, noting similar benefits as for primate species. The intriguing topic of how homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions apply to transgender people is discussed.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION DIMENSION ACTIVATION AND DEACTIVATION:** Diversity, fluidity, and flexibility characterize human sexual orientation. Activation and deactivation of the homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions is relevant to this occurrence, aligning with how the brain largely operates via activation and deactivation, including responses to sexual stimuli, and research revealing that homoerotic behavior is elicited by circumstances. Variability in sexual orientation behavior found with same sex settings, plasticity across the life span, identical twins, asexuality, and sexual abuse, can largely be accounted for by activation and deactivation of sexual orientation dimensions. Interactions between homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions and environmental activating and deactivating factors, comprises a potent epigenetic influence on sexual orientation.

**EROTIC FANTASY:** Fantasy is a major component of human sexuality. Erotic fantasy and sexuality in general are explored by examining the notions of drive reduction and drive induction. Human conceptual ability amplifies sexuality, such that erotic fantasy comprises an additional layer of sexuality,

and one that is more representative of a person's standing on the homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions. The role of erotic fantasy in sexual orientation is then investigated, revealing that it is a potent activator of the homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions.

**SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION:** Essentialism is compared to social construction, and in regards to sexual orientation a "soft" version of social construction applies, there being an objective reality such as genetic influences, but varying understandings derived from social interactions. Historical and cultural social constructions of sexual orientation are reviewed, noting that behaviors have been the focus. With industrialization and urbanization, the social construction shifted to homosexual and heterosexual identities. How the current social construction influences sexual orientation is explored, a key theme consisting of deactivation of the less dominant sexual orientation dimension in each person. The impact of this social construction on discrimination and persecution of "homosexuals" is also discussed.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA APPLIED TO THE FOUR-COMPONENT THEORY:** The twelve criteria for a robust theory of sexual orientation are applied to the four-component approach. The author addresses the inevitable critique that the theory was created and then criteria devised to match it: ten of the twelve criteria were produced prior to the theory, with sufficient complexity and research integrity added based on additional research.

Establishing comprehensive criteria for a robust theory of sexual orientation as a starting point represents a novel approach to sexual orientation theory development. Major biological, evolutionary, and psychosocial perspectives fare

poorly on most or all of the twelve criteria. In contrast, with its development guided and informed by the theory criteria, the four-component approach to sexual orientation performs very well, thereby increasing the probability that it accurately captures reality. The combination of homoerotic and heteroerotic dimensions, activation/deactivation of these dimensions, erotic fantasy, and social construction, appears sufficient to explain the many manifestations and complexities of human sexual orientation. Given the robustness of the four-component theory of sexual orientation in relation to the twelve criteria, this perspective will provide a foundation for future research.





**SECTION 1:**  
**EVALUATING SEXUAL ORIENTATION**  
**THEORIES**

## CRITERIA FOR A ROBUST THEORY OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Theories of sexual orientation have been proposed without due consideration of what qualities have to be present for the proposal to be robust. This problem applies to theories of a biological, evolutionary, and psychosocial nature. Consequently, theories of sexual orientation are vulnerable to many weaknesses. Applying a different approach, I will first identify the criteria that make for a robust theory of sexual orientation. These criteria are drawn from several sources including:

- The author's experience in theory generation spanning several peer-reviewed articles and books, and focus on theory development embodied in The Centre for Theoretical Research In Psychiatry & Clinical Psychology ([psychiatrytheory.com](http://psychiatrytheory.com)), a free online resource to assist theorists in these related disciplines.
- Extensive research pertaining to existing theories of sexual orientation noting critiques presented in reviews.
- The lessons of history relevant to sexual orientation theory, as this topic has been of interest to theorists over many years, and the theories are imbedded in a historical context that has shaped the concepts.

Related to the lack of focus on what a robust theory of sexual orientation must consist of, there is a pronounced and revealing absence of any literature that I could draw on: relative to the enormous amount of theorizing, I have been unable to identify any literature clearly addressing what is required for a solid and comprehensive theory. This chapter aims to rectify this glaring

admission and set criteria that can be applied to future theories of sexual orientation. Related criteria are placed in sequence. In the chapters that follow, I present major biological, evolutionary, and psychosocial theories of sexual orientation and apply these criteria. The focus is on the probability of a theory being robust, as opposed to discrete right or wrong. A four-component theory of sexual orientation will then be presented that aligns with the criteria.

### **CONTINUOUS VERSUS DISCRETE:**

A crucial question consists of: Are natural events organized continuously or discretely? The answer is continuously. The likely reason why nature is characterized by continuums derives from trait variation so crucial to natural selection: a range of traits is required for environmental circumstances to favor some and not others, providing natural selection advantages (Bowins, 2016). If there were only discrete traits, such as extremely long or short beaks, natural selection cannot act; instead, a range of beak sizes is required for the environment to favor a bird with just the right size beak for the flowers in a given environment, as with Darwin's Galapagos finches. Random genetic mutation produces a range of expressions for a given trait that natural selection acts upon, favoring those most optimal for the particular environment.

Despite natural occurrences being organized continuously, we prefer to clump information into discrete categories to simplify information processing (Bowins, 2015, 2016). This tendency generates enormous distortions, a pronounced example that assists in demonstrating this occurrence being depictions of mental illness. Over many years, major diagnostic systems, namely the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM, 2013) and International Classification of Diseases (ICD, 1992), have cited

numerous discrete conditions, such as major depression and minor depression, that even at face value seem dubious. Approximately 100 years of research has failed to identify a discrete form of depression (Bowins, 2015). Select research has suggested that so-called endogenous/melancholic depression, consisting of psychomotor impairment with thought and physical slowing, anergia (lack of energy), anhedonia (inability to feel pleasure), suicide risk, agitation, and fewer anxiety symptoms, is a discrete type (Parker, 2013; Parker et al., 2013). However, this proposal has failed to hold up to closer examination derived from several lines of investigation (Bowins, 2015, 2016). What appears to transpire, is that a seemingly discrete form of depression manifests as an emergent property from greater severity: more severe depression yields the appearance of a discrete type, or in other words, quantitative variation yields qualitative variation as an emergent property (Bowins, 2015, 2016). In the case of endogenous/melancholic depression, the intensity creates the appearance of a distinct type, whereas it is only symptoms consistent with greater severity of depression (Bowins, 2015, 2016). The symptoms of psychomotor impairment with thought and physical slowing, anergia, anhedonia, suicide risk, agitation, and anxiety symptoms are continuous. The same scenario applies to other mental illness variants including anxiety, bipolar disorder, psychosis, personality disorders, and eating disorders (Bowins, 2016).

In addition to our pronounced predilection to set up discrete categories to simplify information processing, financial and political motives can transpire. In the case of mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and psychosis, financial motives have played a major role, as pharmaceutical companies perceive that it is easier to market medications to discrete conditions, such as panic disorder, than to continuous

manifestations (Bowins, 2016). Researchers are funded for this type of research largely by pharmaceutical companies and sit on panels that decide criteria for mental illness, as with DSM and ICD (Cosgrove et al., 2006; Cosgrove et al., 2009). The combination of our natural propensity to favor discrete entities and financial plus political motives, has generated a massive distortion in the mental health area that is perpetuated with each new installment of DSM and ICD, akin to rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic!

In the realm of sexology, financial motives are not so clear although products are marketed for “gay” and “lesbian” cultures, but political motives are prominent. A discrete homosexual category provides a ready-made identity and rallying point against oppression and discrimination, but ironically encourages this treatment based on in-group and out-group dichotomies: humans evolved in hunting-gathering groups over approximately 200,000-300,000 years, and hence we are predisposed to distinguish in-group members who were more likely to assist and less likely to harm. We assign positive traits to in-group members and negative traits to out-group members (Noel, 1995; Sherif, 1961). By establishing discrete homosexual and heterosexual categories, we are actually fueling discrimination and persecution by favoring in-group and out-group distinctions, reinforcing a discrete homosexual entity to provide political protection. On the other hand, continuous entities are much more difficult to discriminate against and persecute because we all have some of the given entity, it being a matter of degree. Ultimately, though, the purpose of science is to yield true outcomes free of financial and political distorting influences, despite how the history of science is characterized by such distortions.

I have presented how the conceptualization of human behavior has been distorted to favor discrete conditions, and my research indicating that continuums apply, but what about other sources. Hudziak et al. (2014), conducting research as part of the United States National Institutes of Health Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study of Normal Brain Development, comment that their research group has uncovered many sources of behavioral genetic evidence in support of a dimensional model of mental illness. They further indicate that a categorical (discrete) depiction of psychopathology fails to capture the true nature of behavior and its underlying biology, and that emotions and behaviors exist on a continuum, rather than in discrete categories (Hudziak et al., 2014). More directly pertinent to sexual orientation research, Kinsey and colleagues also noted the relevance of a continuous organization. In *Sexual Behavior in The Human Male* (1948), Kinsey and colleagues state, “Males do not represent two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual. The world is not divided into sheep and goats. It is a fundamental of taxonomy that nature rarely deals with discrete categories [...]. The living world is a continuum in each and every one of its aspects.” They add in *Sexual Behavior in The Human Female* (1953), “It is a characteristic of the human mind that tries to dichotomize in its classification of phenomena. [...]. Sexual behavior is either normal or abnormal, socially acceptable or unacceptable, heterosexual or homosexual; and many persons do not want to believe that there are gradations in these matters from one to the other extreme.” These statements capture how nature, and certainly human sexuality, is organized in a continuous fashion, while our perception of discrete categories is an illusion arising from a psychological inclination to dichotomize when classifying. This inclination has been extended to sexual orientation in the form of distinct homosexual and heterosexual categories, with this understanding common in the general population, such as

“He’s gay,” “She’s a lesbian,” and also amongst researchers who are not immune to the classification bias. For instance, in numerous studies, participants are classified as homosexual or heterosexual, instead of being depicted in a continuous fashion as pertains to sexual orientation.

Assuming that sexual orientation is continuous, Kinsey and his colleagues, Pomeroy and Martin (1948), devised a single dimension scale for sexual orientation, the Kinsey Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale, or Kinsey Scale as it is commonly known, ranging from 0 to 6:

0- Exclusive heterosexuality

1- Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual

2- Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual

3- Equally heterosexual and homosexual

4- Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual

5- Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual

6- Exclusively homosexual

X Non-sexual

While this shift from a discrete understanding of sexual orientation to continuous was revolutionary in its import, the issue arises of the most accurate continuous organization. We will return to this topic in more detail, but present here how a single continuum is problematic in that it necessitates a trade-off, and how to characterize so-called asexuality (non-sexual). On the Kinsey Scale a 6 represents exclusive homosexuality and 0 exclusive heterosexuality. Bisexuality then involves a trade-off: less degrees of homosexual than full homosexuality and less degrees of heterosexual than full heterosexuality (Storms, 1980). This characterization does not align with

bisexuals having varying strength of homosexual and heterosexual motivation, and not uncommonly equal or greater than many homosexuals and heterosexuals (Storms, 1980). The reality of sexual orientation is then difficult to reconcile with a scale ranging from exclusive homosexuality to exclusive heterosexuality. It might be suggested that the scale is only identifying allegiance to a given sexual orientation, but this implies strength of the respective motivation, as it is difficult to conceive of allegiance to exclusive homosexuality and heterosexuality without substantial motivation, and if so then the problem of asexuality relevant to a unidimensional scale arises: where to place those with very little or no homosexual or heterosexual motivation, so-called asexuals. Placing them in the mid-range is absurd as this implies both motivations akin to bisexuals. Kinsey and colleagues were forced to rate them off the scale with a X for non-sexual. Any scale that fails to capture the range of behavior and forces an off-scale rating is unlikely to be accurate. Two separate scales, one for homoerotic and one for heteroerotic, removing the discrete connotations of homosexual and heterosexual, rectifies the bisexuality and asexuality issues: bisexuals have approximately equal but varying levels of both homoerotic and heteroerotic motivation, and asexuals very low or conceivably zero motivation on both scales. A very high rating on each scale does not mean exclusive “homosexuality” or “heterosexuality” because a person can have maximal ratings on both scales. The relevance of this characterization will be discussed in the chapters that follow.

Of significance, I have used the term, motivation, because sexual orientation really refers to an attraction to other sex individuals with heterosexuality and to same sex people with homosexuality, evidenced in behavior and fantasy, but ultimately it translates into sexual motivation for other or same



sex people. This understanding also helps explain what asexuality entails, a topic explored in the Homoerotic and Heteroerotic Dimensions, and Sexual Orientation Dimension Activation and Deactivation chapters. The coverage of continuous versus discrete has been fairly extensive but this issue has enormous relevance to sexual orientation, as any theory emphasizing discrete homosexual and heterosexual divisions has a very low probability of being accurate. A continuous organization increases the probability of the theory being valid, although the single scale depiction is not promising. The problems with discrete depictions of natural events plague numerous theories applied to human (and non-human) behavior, and many sexual orientation theories suffer as a result.

### **BEHAVIOR VERSUS IDENTITY:**

Behavior is mostly objective, referring to the actions that an individual engages in, whereas identity is largely subjective, and can be derived from multiple sources including qualities, beliefs, personality, appearance, mannerisms, self-image, self-esteem, self-concept, and in-group/out-group affiliations. Furthermore, identity can be individualistic or group based, with individualistic referring to self-perceptions of what features characterize each of us. Group identity is more generic, glossing over individual differences to provide an in-group reference. In regards to sexual orientation, group homosexual and heterosexual identities have been forged, consistent with a discrete conceptualization. Individual differences are secondary to the features that distinguish homosexuals from heterosexuals, or are completely ignored, favoring a dichotomous understanding. Individualistic identity is much more consistent with a continuous distribution because each person varies on the relevant features—qualities, beliefs, personality, appearance,

mannerisms, self-image, self-esteem, self-concept, and in-group/out-group affiliations—that overall will provide for a smooth and continuous description. Since individualistic identities are based on multiple sources, they are multidimensional. For instance, a person might include some degree of homoerotic and heteroerotic motivation, skill at music, conscientiousness, introverted, good looking, a great conversationalist, and physically competent. Group identities are unidimensional, as with “homosexual” depicting a person. What about the many other features that obviously play a role in who the person is? These do not count as the identity is group in nature, and it fosters in-group characterizations, such as perhaps, as a homosexual male he is effeminate and as a homosexual female she is masculine. Group identities do align with our predilection to set up discrete categories. Might there be any real substance to homosexual and heterosexual identities?

Jeffrey Weeks (1985) indicates, a distinction must be made “between homosexual behavior, which is universal, and a homosexual identity, which is historically specific.” Homosexual and heterosexual identities historically have only been around since the nineteenth century, with the roots perhaps at most a century earlier. It is difficult to say exactly when and why these identities arose with various contributing factors, such as the search for identity in the industrial era where people became secondary to productivity, recognition of both male and female sexuality, the medicalization of sexual behavior, and the movement to protect the rights of those with preferences different from the mainstream. The history of sexual orientation is complex and only select aspects will be mentioned at this point (see the Social Construction chapter for more detailed information). Prior to the seventeenth century, the focus was on male sexuality with female sexuality viewed

as atrophied male features, but between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries shifted to a two-sex perspective with distinct male and female aspects (Herrn, 1995). In the nineteenth century sexuality was studied with homosexuality, initially referred to as Uranismus, viewed as a combination of dichotomous female and male features (Herrn, 1995). Persecution of such behavior led Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, a jurist, to argue in the latter half of the nineteenth century for Uranismus being natural and hence not a crime (Herrn, 1995). A contributing influence was the expansion of a biological understanding of natural events, such as with Charles Darwin's (1858) theory of natural selection. The search was then on for biological mechanisms accounting for the newly formed homosexual identity, with its linkage to dichotomous female and male features. Although it is much easier to critique from the vantage point of later history, it might have been worthwhile for those involved in the characterization of homosexuality to pull back and realize that it was only a created identity of recent origins. Moving ahead to more recent times, the gay identity intensified from 1979 onwards with the gay rights movement, such that the notion of homosexuality as a distinct identity is imbedded in culture (De Cecco & Parker, 1995). At the present time, there is the notion of "Queer culture" reinforcing the homosexuality identity.

Much of the biological, evolutionary, and social-psychological research and theorizing, is based on dichotomous homosexual and heterosexual group identities, which greatly reduces the probability of the research and related theory being accurate: the conceptualizations are essentially trying to explain a historically specific identity with no exact natural match. "Homosexuality" as an exclusive same sex sexual orientation is only found in humans and 6-8% of domestic (and probably wild) rams (Bagemihl, 1999)! In contrast, homoerotic behavior

is universal with a long history in humans and numerous species varying in cognitive complexity from insects to higher primates: homoerotic behavior is clearly present in many species including insects, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, mammals, and primates (Bagemihl, 1999; Davies, 1991; Denneston, 1980; de Waal, 1982; Dunkle, 1991; Goodall, 1965; Kirsch & Rodman, 1982; Poiani, 2010; Vasey, 1995; Weinrich, 1982; West, 1977). Another problematic aspect of dichotomous homosexual and heterosexual identities is how does bisexuality fit in? In providing psychotherapy to many individuals with varying sexual orientations, I have noted significantly more distress for bisexuals, perhaps not surprising given how poor the fit is with a dichotomous homosexual and heterosexual identity framework. These individuals frequently report being rejected by homosexuals and heterosexuals, and often viewed as denying their true homosexual nature (Brewster & Moradi, 2010; Israel & Mohr, 2004). Based on a community sample of 1,615 adults from eastern United States cities, Nam et al. (2019) found that only bisexual individuals experience significantly higher psychological distress and suicidal ideation. Relevant to the poor fit with dichotomous sexual orientation identities, Brenda Fahs (2009) notes that bisexuality can be a permanent identity category, a trendy sexual identity, a transitory phase and hence not a true identity on the way to a real homosexual or heterosexual identity, or a chosen political and social identity not necessarily requiring actual sexual contact. The multiple options create identity confusion generating psychological stress, relative to those who identify with homosexual or heterosexual.

In response to the characterization of sexual orientation as dichotomous group identities, Queer theory arose to deconstruct these concepts and restore more individualistic sexual orientation identities (Butler, 1999; Eng et al., 2005;

Green, 2007; Warner, 1993). Queer theory is complex and not unitary but it questions discrete depictions of sexuality and gender. This focus is valuable because so much of sexual orientation identity and related gender identity has been based on the group identity framework, which does not allow for individual differences and expressions. Another way of looking at the matter is that, at best, these group identity depictions might provide average values that are not helpful in understanding the enormous variation and diversity of sexuality and gender. In regards to dichotomous homosexual and heterosexual group identities, even this averaging scenario is unlikely to be accurate because they are only historically specific, lacking the information value of universal sexual orientation behaviors. Hence, theories that focus on behavior and not group identity are far more likely to capture the reality of sexual orientation.

A strategy employed by some researchers that can confuse the issue of homosexuality and heterosexuality as orientations involving exclusive same sex and other sex, respectively, is lumping 5 ratings with 6 on the Kinsey Scale for a designation of homosexual. This constitutes a logical and practical error, because the 6 rating is exclusive homosexuality consistent with a distinct identity (as well as 0 for exclusive heterosexuality). The 1-5 ratings indicate bisexuality as both sexual orientations are utilized by the person with such ratings. These researchers discuss homosexuality as a distinct entity, but then shift bisexuals with both homosexual and heterosexual motivation into the homosexual category confusing the designation. For behavior and not identity to be the focus, the terms homoerotic and heteroerotic behavior should be applied, or possibly same sex and other sex sexual behavior, but not homosexual and heterosexual behavior, as this implies exclusive same sex and other sex sexual orientation, respectively.

## **ACCOUNTING FOR HOMOEROTIC BEHAVIOR IN ANIMAL SPECIES:**

Homoerotic behavior is extremely common amongst animals varying in cognitive capacity from insects to higher primates (Bagemihl, 1999; Davies, 1991; Denneston, 1980; de Waal, 1982; Dunkle, 1991; Goodall, 1965; Kirsch & Rodman, 1982; Poiani, 2010; Vasey, 1995; Weinrich, 1982; West, 1977), whereas homosexuality as an exclusive same sex sexual orientation only seems to apply to 6-8% of rams (Bagemihl, 1999). Furthermore, the more that researchers look with an unbiased perspective the more examples of homoerotic behavior they find. Evolution tends to conserve resources and successful adaptations (Darwin, 1858), and the intuitive probability of homoerotic behavior in numerous animal species being replaced by a homosexual identity in humans is extremely low; I will present the adaptive value of homoerotic behavior in the Homoerotic and Heteroerotic Dimensions chapter. Hence, any theory of sexual orientation must take into account the universality, or at the very least, the widespread occurrence of homoerotic behavior amongst animal species. By extension, the role of homoerotic behavior in human sexual orientation needs to be accounted for, and distinguished from homosexuality. The same applies to heteroerotic behavior and heterosexuality. If homosexuality understood in its proper context as an exclusive same sex preference is integral to the given theory, then an explanation of how sexual orientation identities replaced sexual orientation behaviors (homoerotic and heteroerotic) is required.

## **EXPLAIN THE EVOLUTIONARY PARADOX:**

The evolutionary or Darwinian paradox refers to how homosexual behavior that does not lead to reproduction could