

ABC... OF SEX

S u m m a r y

Everybody intuitively distinguishes women from men by referring to socially established stereotypes of sexuality and by observing external gender attributes. Drawing such distinctions usually helps to identify the sex of a person, but...we can also be misled. However, in order to fully determine a person's sex we need much more information than commonly believed. That is why the author quotes the existing (handbook and encyclopaedic) gender definitions and goes on to discuss such gender criteria as chromosomal and gonadal criteria, internal and external sex organs as well as phenotypic, hormonal, metabolic, social and legal criteria and – last but not least – the brain and mental

sex identity. Noteworthy are notions of gender and sexual identification; gender and sexual role, sexorientation, sexual preferences, the phenomena of ambisexuality and gender transposition. Using the gender criteria discussed earlier, the author presents the description or a definition of woman and man. In this context, he defines sexuality and concludes that eroticism is a consequence of sex differences. The author of „ABC ... of Sex” hopes that this paper will clarify the meaning of distinctness between men and women.