

Nature's Choice

What Science Reveals about the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation

By Cheryl L. Weill

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Nature's Choice is a compilation and review of many research studies about the characteristics of sexual orientation in conjunction with hormonal and physical interactions during pregnancy and early life. The author includes studies of the neurohormonal theory of sexual orientation, the possibility of heritability, anomalies in the gene structures and their ability to react to hormones, and the effects of alcohol and drug use during pregnancy. Thorough and very well written, this is a must book for anyone concerned with the cause of sexual orientation – whether heterosexual or homosexual.

Dr. Weill makes this subject understandable by including definitions, explanations of theory, and science and the scientific method. She covers anatomy, genetics, body measurements, sensory systems, birth order effects, and maternal behaviors – all of which have been studied recently in relation to sexual orientation. While there is no definitive proof of the cause of sexual orientation, the sheer number of correlations between testosterone and sexual orientation appears to confirm the neurohormonal theory as a major influence. Meanwhile, the most consistent apparent influence on male sexual orientation is birth order, where there is an increasing probability of a gay male within a family as the number of male children increases.

No data are reviewed concerning determination of sexual orientation due to postnatal social environment. Science requires data, complete with peer review and replication of studies and their results. There is no credible scientific data showing postnatal parental, sibling, or societal influence as influencing sexual orientation.

Reviewed by Dave Parker