Yesenia Baltazar

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Professor Fraad

The Controversy Debate On The Topic Of Homosexuality

For over a century the controversial topic of homosexuality has been universally spoken about. Homosexuals are individuals who are attracted to other individuals of the same gender. In today's society, the idea of homosexuality remains to be a challenging to some, however it’s slowly being accepted worldwide. The articles “Homosexuality: Born Or Bred?” by Newsweek Staff, “Pas de Deux of Sexuality Is Written in the Genes” by Nicholas Wade, “The Innate-Immutable Argument Finds No Basis in Science” by A Dean Byrd and the chapter “The Last Mile” from the book, The Gene An Intimate History, by Siddhartha Mukherjee, develop claims for the existence of homosexuality. Although when reasoning homosexuality factors like religion, culture, or family may be present. Homosexuality is best reasoned through biology when viewing the Bailey Pillard Twin Study of identical genetic bonds shared in homosexual men, Hamer’s reaserch of a pattern found in families of homsexual relatives and Nicholas Wade’s research of sexual desire being determined before birth using the brains function.

Homosexual behavior can be linked to a biological explanation. The article “Homosexuality: Born or Bred?” by Newsweek Staff mentions a research named The Bailey Pillard Twin Study. In this study fifty six identical twins were contacted in order to figure out if any identical genetic bonds exist in homosexual men. The Newsweek Staff mentions, “The researchers found that of 56 identical twins, 52 percent were both gay, as against 22 percent of fraternal twins, who have somewhat weaker bonds.” (5.) Since identical twins have the exact DNA composition then this twin study finding means that if one identical twin is gay then the other identical twin is three times likely to be gay as well. This finding claims that identical twins share a genetic material that affects their sexual orientation therefore homosexual males overall have a shared genetic bond.

There is a biological basis for homosexuality. The chapter “The Last Mile” from the book, The Gene An Intimate History, by Siddhartha Mukherjee mentions Hamer’s research called A Gay Roots Project where a pattern was found in families of homosexual relatives. Hamer attracted 114 gay men for his study and created family trees for all of them. He noticed that gay men tended to have gay uncles but only on the maternal side, this meant that a gay gene had to be carried out on the X chromosome since men do not pass on the X chromosome to their children. Siddhartha Mukherjee states “Hamer found that thirty three brothers shared a small stretch of the X chromosome called Xq28. [...] Somewhere near Xq28, then, was a gene that determines male sexual identity.” (377.) Hamers approach did not determine a gay gene, however the only conclusion made is that male sexual identity is determined by a gene that lives near Xq28. Hamer’s research suggests that there are several determinants that influence sexual identity taken part in human genome and that a piece of DNA is associated with sexual orientation.

Homosexuality is a natural biological feature determined from birth. The article “Pas de Deux of Sexuality Is Written in the Genes” by Nicholas Wade reasons homosexuality using the brain function. Males and females operate in distinct patterns, they use their brains in different ways even if they perform the same tasks. Nicholas Wade says. “The male brain is sexually oriented toward woman as an object of desire. The most direct evidence comes from a handful of cases, some of them circumcision accidents, in which boy babies have lost their penises and been reared as females. [...] they grow up desiring woman, not men.” (2.) This means that sexual orientation, at least for men, is settled before birth, there is something in the brain that determines the sexuality desire of human beings since birth.

Even though there is evidence on the role that biology plays in homosexuality, there's others that believe that homosexuality is rather a choice. The article “The Innate-Immutable Argument Finds No Basis in Science” by A Dean Byrd rather claims that homosexuality is a matter of a sexual preference one decides on as they age. Dean Byrd mentions a research he reviewed, “Satinover reported a 52% success rate in the treatment of unwanted homosexual attraction. Masters and Johnson, the famed sex researchers, reported 65% success rate after a five year follow up. [...] Other professionals report success rates ranging from 30% to 70%.” (2.) This means that there is evidence that homosexuality attraction can be fixed with professional help, the sexual preference that a male has with their same sex can be diminished. Furthermore, Dean Byrd also reveals, “[...] homosexuality is not a choice, that no one would choose to be gay in a homophobic society. But there is an element of choice in all behavior, sexual or otherwise.” (4.) This is a legal argument for homosexuality being rather an option than a natural born trait.

The claims that Dean Byrd makes over homosexuality being a choice that individuals make for themselves can be noted as legitimate. However, change in homosexuality can only be effective if it is voluntarily. The article mentioned earlier by the Newsweek Staff communicates to the reader the story of Annette E. Brenner and her gay son. Annette’s son came out to her and her husband when he was 17, her first reactions were negotiations to get him out of his gayness, she offered him a car and a house in order for him to wait and try marriage. Annette had a hard time accepting her son’s reality, she sent him to therapy and at some points she wondered if it had been her fault for being too domineering. Eventually, Annette and her husband came to terms with their son’s sexual preference. This evidence turns Dean Byrd’s claims of homosexuality being a choice that can be changed. Annette was trying to forcefully change her son, she sought therapy for him and bribed him out of his gayness and nothing worked, therefore, this means that change is only possible when voluntary. Furthermore, Dean Byrd’s claim of homosexuality being an element of choice for a homosexuals behavior isn’t rightful. He quotes “[...] homosexuality is not a choice, that no one would choose to be gay in a homophobic society. [...]” This claim makes sense when seeing the perspective that some religions or society have on homosexality. In Muslim countries, those who are gay are punished harshly and in today’s society LGBT communities are judged and challenged. If homosexual behavior was a matter of choice, individuals wouldn’t choose to live a problematic life or risk their lives because of their sexual preference. Therefore, claiming that homosexuality is a matter of a choice is uncalled for.

Homosexuality is determined at birth, there is something in the brain and a gene in the DNA that all homosexuals share. Nicholas Wade, the Newsweek Staff and Siddhartha Mukherjee have reviewed many researchers findings, they have come up with the conclusion that homosexuality is biologically determined. There isn’t yet an exact gay gene directed, it is however hoped that future technology will lead to a legitimate determination on a gay gene because the studies presented now show that there is a shared factor in within homosexuals. It is important to respect homosexuals, it is their own decision of owning up to their natural trait and embracing it.

MLA

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