

qsa workshop #10: culturally mediated (a)sexuality
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objectives:

- to talk about how culture mediates the way(s) we are supposed to be sexually
- to talk about “unconventional” ways of being sexual
- to talk about asexuality
- to talk about how asexuality relates to queerness: is it queer to be asexual?

materials needed:

- white board or chalk board, markers or chalk

preparation:

- set up a circle with the board

icebreaker:

- barnyard animals: split into groups of 2 or 3 by birthday months

name game:

- go around, do names and your favorite cosmetic product and why

ground rules:

- confidentiality: not that you can't talk about what goes on here (on the contrary, please do continue discussions outside of the workshop) but don't go around saying “so-and-so was at the workshop and said such-and-such”
- respect: there are probably a lot of us coming from different places; please respect each other. feel free to disagree with each other but please use “i” statements
- no stupid questions: on a similar note, there are no stupid questions here; you should feel free to ask everything. i realize this can sometimes be a risky position to take, but i think it's important. if you think a question is offensive, you should say so, but that doesn't mean that it was stupid. anyway, we'll see how this one works.
- any others?

activity:

- brainstorm: what does our culture tell us about how we're supposed to be, sexually?
 - men are supposed to be attracted to women, women are supposed to be attracted to men
 - being attracted to someone means kissing, petting and intercourse
 - everyone is supposed to have sexual urges all the time and want to have sex
 - attractive women are blonde, white and thin
 - attractive men are strong and white
 - people aren't supposed to need to masturbate
- (make a subcategory for gay/lesbian culture)
 - men are supposed to be attracted to men
 - women are supposed to be attracted to women
 - people are supposed to want to have sex all the time a lot
- handout questions, have them do them individually:
 1. am i a sexual being? (“i don't know” is an acceptable answer.)
if so, in what ways or how do i manifest it or want to manifest it?
 2. how are those ways the same as the brainstorm list that we made?
 3. how are they different?
 4. what do i like about what i said in (2) and (3)?
 5. what do i dislike about it?
- break up into the barnyard animals groups to share
- come back to the group to report
- discuss:
 - how does asexuality fit into this discussion?
 - is being asexual queer?

follow up/wrap up/conclusion:

- closing thoughts