

LATEST NEWS



 News articles list



News categories



News archive

Policy

Policy: Letter to the US President and Congress on the Scientific Understanding of Sex and Gender

Contributed by kjm34 on Feb 06, 2025 - 11:35 PM

President Donald J Trump
Washington, DC

Members of the US Congress
Washington, DC

February 5, 2025

RE: Scientific Understanding of Sex and Gender

Dear President Trump and Members of the US Congress,

As scientists, we write to express our concerns about the Executive Order “Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism And Restoring Biological Truth To The Federal Government”. That Order states first, that “there are two sexes...[which] are not changeable”. The Order goes on to state that sex is determined at conception and is based on the size of the gamete that the resulting individual will produce. These statements are contradicted by extensive scientific evidence.

Scientific consensus defines sex in humans as a biological construct that relies on a combination of chromosomes, hormonal balances, and the resulting expression of gonads, external genitalia and secondary sex characteristics. There is variation in all these biological attributes that make up sex. Accordingly, sex (and gendered expression) is not a binary trait. While some aspects of sex are bimodal, variation along the continuum of male to female is well documented in humans through hundreds of scientific articles. Such variation is observed at both the genetic level and at the individual level (including hormone levels, secondary sexual characteristics, as well as genital morphology). Beyond the incorrect claim that science backs up a simple binary definition of sex, the lived experience

of people clearly demonstrates that the genetic composition at conception does not define one's identity. Rather, sex and gender result from the interplay of genetics and environment. Such diversity is a hallmark of biological species, including humans.

We note that you state that “Basing Federal policy on truth is critical to scientific inquiry, public safety, morale and trust in the government itself”. We agree with this statement. However, the claim that the definition of sex and the exclusion of gender identity is based on the best available science is false. Our three scientific societies represent over 3500 scientists, many of whom are experts on the variability that is found in sexual expression throughout the plant and animal kingdoms. More information explaining why sex lies along a continuum can be found [here](#). If you wish to speak to one of our scientists, please contact any of the societies listed below.

Carol Boggs, PhD
President
Society for the Study of Evolution
president@evolutionsociety.org

Daniel Bolnick, PhD
President
American Society of Naturalists

Jessica Ware, PhD
President
Society of Systematic Biologists
president@systematicbiologists.org

Print 

- •students
- •grants
- •policy

[Back to top](#)



About

- History
- Mission and Vision
- Diversity Statement
- Statement Against Racism and Racial Injustice

Publications

- About
- Evolution
 - Current Issue
 - Manuscript Submissions
 - Digest Submissions

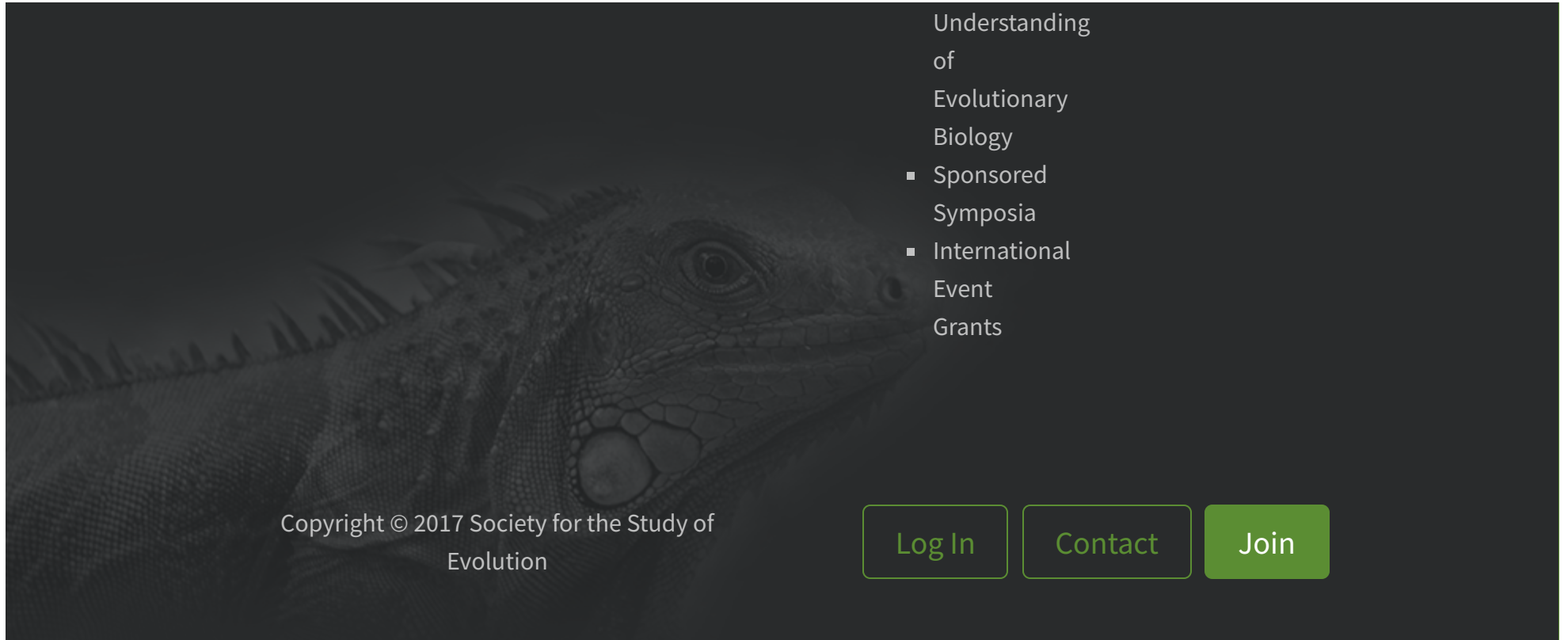
Education & Outreach

- About
- Undergraduate Diversity at Evolution
- Resources for Teachers and Students
- Statement on Evolution

- Financial Reports
- Council and Committees
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Officers Handbook
- Code of Ethics
- Contact Us
- Membership
 - About SSE Membership
 - Global Membership Assistance Program
 - SSE Membership Award
 - Join Online
 - Renew or Update Membership
 - Mail-In Membership Form
 - Member Login
 - New Faculty Profiles
- Evolution Highlights
- English Language Support
- Evolution Letters
 - Current Issue
 - Manuscript Submissions
 - Evolution Letters Short Talks
 - Editor's Blog
- Meetings
 - Evolution Meeting
 - Past and Future Meetings
 - Sponsored Symposia
 - International Symposia Series
 - GREG Seminar Series
- Students
- Awards
- Evo ED Digital Library
- Resources for Understanding Sex and Gender
- Committee Pages
 - International Committee
 - Public Policy Committee
 - Diversity Committee
- Jobs
- News

- Data Privacy and Transparency Policy
- ALL Society Awards and Prizes
- SSE Membership Award
- SSE International Committee Awards
- Evolution Meeting Travel Awards
- Prizes
 - Theodosius Dobzhansky Prize
 - SSE Presidents' Award for Outstanding Dissertation Paper
 - Stephen Jay Gould Prize
 - W. D. Hamilton Award

- Thomas
Henry
Huxley
Award
- IDEA
Award
- Lifetime
Achievement
Award
- Grants
 - Graduate
Research
Excellence
Grants
 - Early-career
Vocational
Opportunities
(EVO)
Workshop
Grants
 - Small
Grants
Program
for Local
and
Regional
Outreach
Promoting
the



Understanding
of
Evolutionary
Biology

- Sponsored
Symposia
- International
Event
Grants

Copyright © 2017 Society for the Study of
Evolution

[Log In](#)

[Contact](#)

[Join](#)