

On Homosexuality

A Different Perspective

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Attacked From Both Sides

- Rev. Mohler, an eminent Evangelical Pastor, decided to make a public remark that there may indeed be a biological basis for homosexuality and that if proven, prenatal treatment to reverse gay orientation would be biblically justified. He got slammed from both the right and the left.
- Why is this such a contentious statement for **both** sides?
 - For conservatives, proof of a biological basis for sexual orientation would cast serious doubt on the strongly held view of many Christians that **homosexuality is without question a sin** and that it is a matter of choice that can only be overcome by prayer and counseling.
 - For gay rights people, such a statement that even if sexual orientation were proven to be biologically based; that it would **still remain a sin** is incredibly offensive and smacks of pure homophobia being injected into the world of science.

Critical Comments

- Rev. Joseph Fessio, a prominent Roman Catholic thinker says that “same-sex activity is considered a disorder. Therefore, if there are ways of detecting diseases or disorders in children in the womb, and a way of treating them that respected the dignity of the child and mother, it would be a wonderful advance in science.”
- In response, Jennifer Chrisler of Family Pride, a group that supports gay and lesbian families said “ Fessio is being hypocritical . In one breath he says that the sanctity of an unborn life is unconditional and in the next breath he says that it is okay to perform medical treatments on them, not because there is anything wrong with the child, but because of their own moral convictions.

More Critical Comments Continued

- Paul Myers, a biology professor at the University of Minneapolis-Morris said that any such medical attempts may indeed be very risky. He claims that if there are any such genes attributed to sexual orientation, they will also contribute to other aspects of social and sexual interactions. “Therefore, disentangling the nuances of sexual preference from the whole damn problem of loving people might well be impossible”.
- Dr. Jack Dreschner, New York City psychiatrist critical of those who consider homosexuality a disorder, actually commended Rev. Mohler’s openness to the prospect that sexual orientation may be biologically based. “This represents a major shift”, he wrote. “This is a man who has an open mind, and who is struggling to reconcile his religious beliefs with the facts that contradict it”.

Current Scientific Research

- Simon LeVay, a Cambridge and Harvard educated neuroscientist, has been a leader in the field of sexual orientation and brain structure. One of his major findings is that there is evidence of brain differences and sexual dimorphisms in humans.
 - It is believed that prenatal and perinatal hormones organize various components of the brain thus creating a male brain and a female brain.
 - The most sexually dimorphic (same organ existing in different states) region of the brain is the hypothalamus. Within this region lies the sexually dimorphic nucleus of the pre-optic area best known as SDN-POA . In men, it is twice as large than in women. SDN-POA is found to play a central role in secreting gonadotropin, which is a hormone that helps control the growth of the pituitary glands that in turn create hormones that control the growth and activities of testes and ovaries. In mammals it has been proven to control maternal and sexual behaviors.
 - There are four different cell groups in this region called INAH 1 thru 4. Research has shown that INAH-3 is about three times larger in the male brain while INAH-2 is about twice as large.

Research Continued

- LeVay studied post mortem brain tissues of 41 subjects who had died from AIDS. According to his findings, there is a correlation between brain structure and sexual behavior.
 - He found that INAH-3 was two to three times as large in heterosexual men than in homosexual men.
- His conclusion was that “the discovery that a nucleus differs in size between heterosexual men and homosexual men illustrates that sexual orientation in humans is amenable to study at the biological level.

Potential Issues With Research Findings

- Coming to valid conclusions about causality based on correlation studies can be filled with potential errors:
 - Most correlation studies are linear in nature i.e., when effect A and effect B are analyzed, it is often difficult if not impossible, to know which came first.
 - In truth, many of the critical socio-biological questions under study have what I term a *hyper-geometric* foundation as its real cause and that includes variables that they either did not or cannot factor in.
 - In this linear study for example, we cannot know for sure if complications from the AIDS virus itself was a causal factor in their increased INAH-3 levels.

LINEAR CAUSALITY



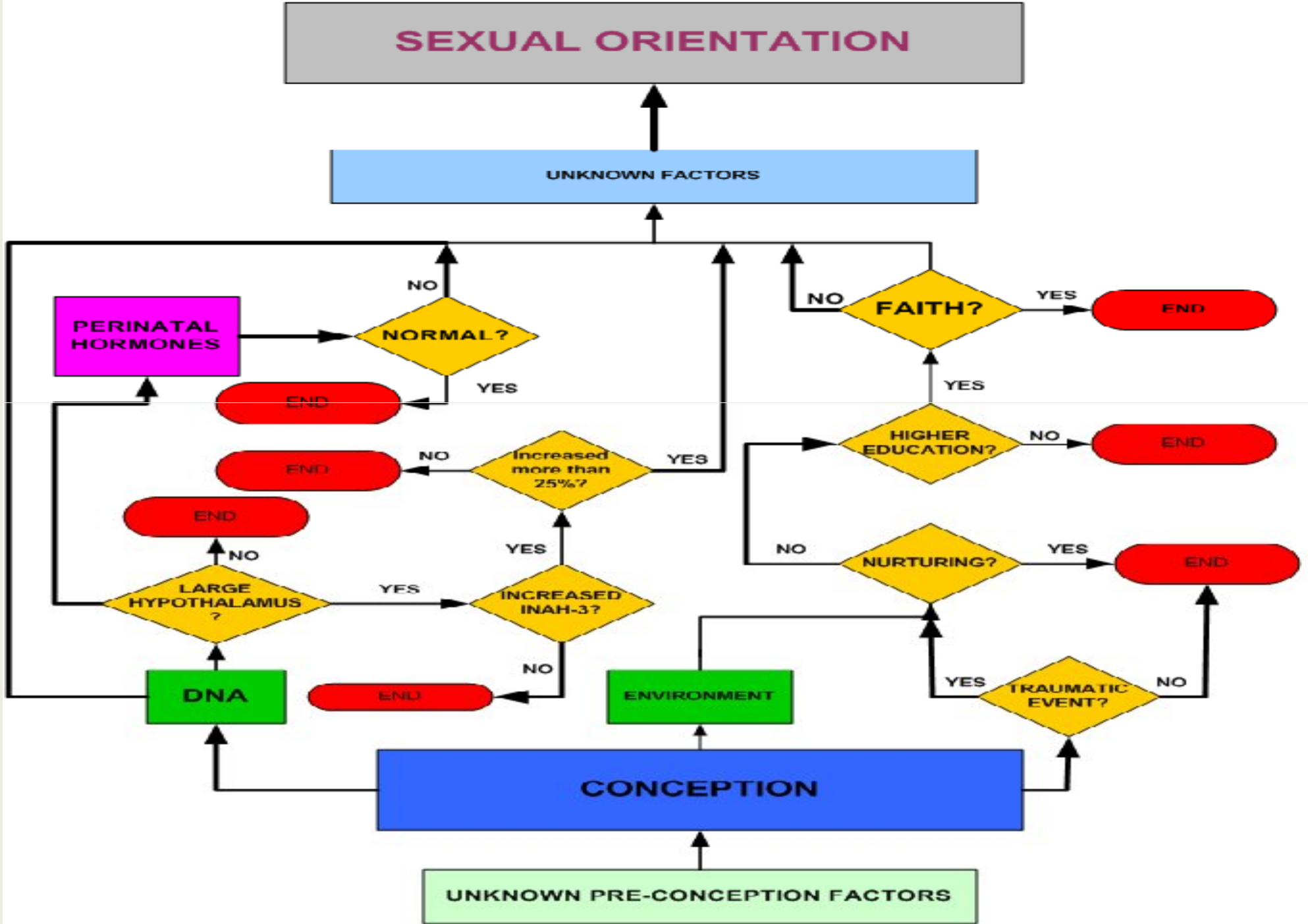
LARGER
HYPOTHALAMUS

INCREASED INAH - 3

HOMOSEXUAL
ORIENTATION

HYPER-GEOMETRIC CAUSALITY

SEXUAL ORIENTATION



WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

*WE ARE NOT THAT
SMART!!*

BOTH SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS AND
RELIGIOUS INTERPRETATIONS ARE PRONE
TO SIGNIFICANT ERROR AS BOTH ARE
FUNCTIONS OF OUR MINDS.

WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?

- IN MY OPINION, FEELING IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THINKING
- WE SHOULD THEREFORE LISTEN TO OUR **HEARTS** TO GUIDE US IN OUR BEHAVIORS AND BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR KIND AND FAIR POLICY AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THOSE THAT ARE NOT LIKE US
- NO ONE IS NEAR WISE ENOUGH TO JUDGE WITHOUT MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE

WHAT SAY YOU?