

Summary

Acknowledgements	XV
Preface	XVII
<i>Carla's Story: My childhood and adolescence</i>	1
Chapter 1. AN INTRODUCTION TO GENDER IDENTITY	5
Gender identity is a complex term.....	7
Gender identity is a relatively recent concept.....	8
What is transgender identity?.....	12
Is consciousness of only being either male or female the limit?	12
Transgender prevalence in the population.....	13
When does gender consciousness arise?.....	15
Gender diversity in children and adolescents	17
How to treat children and adolescents	17
Consensus on pubertal treatment.....	20
Transgender adults	22
Stigma in the transgender minority	25
Desisting and de-transition	25
Our strategy for investigating gender identity.....	27
<i>Carla's Story: Discovering who I really was</i>	33
Chapter 2. CEREBRAL SEXUAL DIFFERENTIATION	37
What is sexual dimorphism?.....	40
Genes and hormones sexually differentiate the brain.....	41

Which cerebral structures are differentiated by hormones?.....	45
Hormonal mechanisms that induce cerebral sexual differentiation	51
Critical periods in cerebral sexual differentiation	55
Epigenetic mechanisms in cerebral sexual differentiation	58
The functional significance of cerebral sexual differentiation.....	62

Carla's Story: A Long New Road **65**

Chapter 3. GENETIC BASES OF GENDER IDENTITY **67**

Gender identity family studies	70
Studies with twins	73
Gender identity studies based on molecular genetics	78
Gender identity variant-associated polymorphisms.....	80
Gender identity and the exome	88
How are genes expressed in relation to gender identity?.....	89
Conclusion.....	94

Carla's Story: Hormones - A Progressive Femininity **97**

Chapter 4. GENDER IDENTITY IN INTERSEX INDIVIDUALS **99**

Differences in sexual development.....	101
Differentiation of the internal reproductive system and the genitals	102
Intersex classification	104
Evolution of gender assignation in intersex children	105
Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome	107
Congenital adrenal hyperplasia syndrome	113
Measuring genital phenotypical characteristics.....	117
External agents that can influence sexual development	119
Micropenis, peneal ablation and children born with ambiguous genitals.....	122
Androgens, brain, and behavior	125

Carla's Story: The Surgeries **127**

Chapter 5. THE CEREBRAL FOUNDATIONS FOR GENDER IDENTITY **131**

An introduction	133
Cerebral structure in binary gender identities	136
Total brain volume.....	136
Volume of cerebral cortex and subcortical structures	136

Cortical thickness and surface	137
Cerebral connectivity in binary gender identities.....	145
Brain structural connectivity.....	145
Brain functional connectivity	149
Stationary functional connectivity	149
Dynamic functional connectivity	153
Gender identity endophenotypes in whole brain dynamics	155
Brain sexual differentiation and gender identity.....	158
A neurodevelopmental model of gender identity.....	162
Appendix to Chapter 5.....	165
A. Structural brain imaging.....	167
B. Functional connectivity.....	171
C. Functional dynamic of the brain	173
Glossary of frequent terms used in relation to gender	177
References	183
Figures Sources and Licensing Information	217