

# Alternative Relationships

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(Bois Who Date Girls Who See Bois)

## Overview

Polyamory, Monogamy, Consensual Nonmonogamy, Swinging, Master/slave, Dominant/Submissive, Daddy/boy... We will discuss a variety of relationship types and how they're reflected in daily life. What do these terms mean in your lives and relationships? What resources are available for people exploring these relationship types?

## Bio

I'm a fun-loving rope geek and sex educator who has found a home in the Midwest kink community. When I'm not traveling to events, I contribute to the Iowa State University CUFFS group, and serve on the board of Minneapolis TNG group Min-KY. Although I'm a relatively new member of the scene, I've presented at numerous events across the country, including Kinky Kollege, Shibaricon, Denver Bound, and Beyond Leather.

As a presenter, I aim to provide a comfortable down-to-earth learning environment for all genders, orientations, and experience levels.

My long list of presentations, events, and class materials can be found at <http://www.kinkfriendly.org>

Enjoy yourselves!

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## Introduction

Within the kink community, we encounter a huge number of relationship styles and sexual identities. The list below is incomplete and presented in no particular order. By choosing one item from each of these categories, you can create 72,000 combinations! Since labels are rarely adequate for describing one's self, this is but a small amount of the infinite possibilities.

### ***Gender Identities***

Transgender	Cisgender	Queer
Questioning	Androgynous	Gender Fluid
Intersex	Male	Female
Boi	Grrl	

### ***Sexual Orientation***

Straight	Lesbian	Asexual
Gay	Bisexual	Heteroflexible
Pansexual		

### ***Kink / Power Exchange***

Master/slave	Mistress/slave	Vanilla
Daddy/girl	Mommy/girl	Daddy/boy
Mommy/boy	Switch	Owner/pet
Dominant/submissive	Sadist/Masochist	

### ***Number of Partners***

Partnered Nonmonogamy	Swinging	Polyamory
Polyfidelity	Monogamy	Nonmonogamy

### ***Level of Involvement***

Dating	Spouse	Lover
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Hooking Up	Partner
Serious	Going Steady	Significant Other
Fuckbuddy	Friends with Benefits	

While there is no way that we can understand the dynamics involved in all of these combinations, we have an amazing variety within our community. By engaging others and sharing our own experiences, we can work together to understand what each persons' relationships and identities mean to them.

## Goal

The goal of this discussion is to learn more about our own and others' relationships and sexual identities. It is meant to be a forum to encourage understanding and answer participants' questions.

## Ground Rules

This discussion relies on everyone's willingness to share some potentially personal information about their lives and relationships. As such, please observe the following rules when participating in this discussion:

0. *Modify these rules as needed, agree on the ground rules before continuing.*
1. Treat yourself and others with respect.
2. Nobody is obligated to participate. Share only if you are comfortable doing so.
3. Own your own feelings. Begin sentences with "I" statements – "I feel" "I believe" "In my experience, I"
4. What may be Right, Real, or True to you may not be the same for someone else. Everyone is entitled to their feelings and opinions, please respect that right.
5. This is a forum for positive engagement and cooperation. Provide constructive feedback and ask clarifying questions rather than providing negative commentary.

## Questions to Consider

These questions are here to get the conversation started – everyone who attended chose to come for a reason, what was it?

What type of relationship are you in now? How has it evolved over time?

Have you identified yourself or your relationship differently in the past?

What are some feelings you associate with the various relationship types? Are some feelings more appropriate for certain relationships than others?

Most relationships require at least some amount of work, what are some of the harder ones to maintain?

Have you ever started one style of relationship and then settled into another? How did you handle the transition?

How do you integrate your various identities/relationships into your daily life? What are some of the little things that help you maintain your sanity/enjoyment/excitement/happiness?

## Conclusion

Hopefully this discussion has been an opportunity to gain knowledge of (and appreciation for) the variety of relationships and identities in the kink community. The conversation doesn't need to stop here! Listed on the remaining pages are some resources for further exploration.

Thanks for sharing!

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# Appendix – Resources & Bibliography

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## Gender Identities

Bornstein, Kate. My Gender Workbook: How to Become a Real Man, a Real Woman, the Real You, or Something Else Entirely. Routledge, 1997.

Califia, Patrick. Speaking Sex to Power: The Politics of Queer Sex. Cleis Press, 2001.

## Sexual Orientation

### *On the Net*

The Human Rights Coalition  
<http://www.hrc.org>

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
<http://www.nglftf.org>

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
<http://www.pflag.org>

### *In Print*

Garber, Marjorie. Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life. Routledge, 2000.

Kristal, Nicole, and Mike Szymanski. The Bisexual's Guide to the Universe: Quips, Tips, and Lists for Those Who Go Both Ways. Alyson Books, 2006.

Ochs, Robyn, and Sarah Rowley. Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World. Bisexual Resources Center, 2005.

Sincero, Jen. The Straight Girl's Guide to Sleeping with Chicks. Fireside, 2005.

## Number of Partners

### *On the Net*

Polyamory? What, like, two girlfriends?  
<http://www.xeromag.com/fvpoly.html>

Polyamory Weekly – Responsible non-monogamy from a kink-friendly pansexual point of view  
<http://polyweekly.com>

Loving More: New Models for Relationships  
<http://www.lovemore.com>

## ***In Print***

Anapol, Deborah M. [Polyamory: The New Love Without Limits : Secrets of Sustainable Intimate Relationships](#). Intinet Resource Center, 1997.

Easton, Dossie, and Catherine A. Liszt. [The Ethical Slut: A Guide to Infinite Sexual Possibilities](#). Greenery Press (CA), 1997.

Matik, Wendy-O. [Redefining Our Relationships: Guidelines For Responsible Open Relationships](#). Defiant Times Press, 2002.

Ravenscroft, Anthony. [Polyamory: Roadmaps for the Clueless & Hopeful](#). Crossquarter Publishing Group, 2004.

Taormino, Tristan. [Opening Up: A Guide to Creating and Sustaining Open Relationships](#). Cleis Press, 2008.

## **Kink/Power Exchange**

### ***On the Net***

National Coalition for Sexual Freedom  
<http://www.ncsfreedom.org>

Leather Archives and Museum  
<http://www.leatherarchives.org>

Masters And slaves Together  
<http://www.mast.net>

## ***In Print***

Abernathy, Christina. [Miss Abernathy's Concise Slave Training Manual](#). Greenery Press (CA), 1998.

Bean, Joseph W. [Leathersex: A Guide for the Curious Outsider and the Serious Player](#). Daedalus Publishing Company, 1994.

Dominguez, Ivo. [Beneath the Skins: The New Spirit and Politics of the Kink Community](#). Daedalus Publishing Company, 1994.

Mains, Geoff. [Urban Aboriginals](#). Daedalus Publishing, 2002.

Rinella, Jack. [Partners in Power: Living in Kinky Relationships](#). Greenery Press (CA), 2003.

Rubel, Robert J. [Protocols: Handbook for the female slave](#). The Nazca Plains Corporation, 2006.

Rubel, Robert J. [Master/slave Relations: Handbook of Theory and Practice](#). Nazca Plains Corp, 2007.

Thompson, Mark. [Leatherfolk: Radical Sex, People, Politics, and Practice](#). Daedalus Publishing, 2004.

Townsend, Larry. [The Leatherman's Handbook](#). L.T. Publications, 2006.

Warren, John. [Safe, Sane, Consensual and Fun](#). Greenery Press (CA), 2002.