

Motivation: Feeding Behavior and Sexual Behavior**I. Beyond the Basic Model of Feeding**

Feeding and eating involve more than physiological factors. There are other factors—social and cultural factors—that influence our regulation of eating and ultimately our body weight.

A. Social influences.

B. Undereating: Anorexia and bulimia.

C. Overeating: Obesity.

II. Sexual Motivation

A. Sexual response.

B. Sexual arousal.

Not surprisingly, there are documented gender differences as to what is sexually arousing.

III. Sexual Orientation

A. Common theories.

Some commonly-held theories of sexual orientation (e.g., recruitment) have little, if any, support.

B. Biological factors.

As with other motivated behaviors, the hypothalamus is important.

C. Bem's "Exotic becomes erotic" theory.

This theory provides a way to integrate biological factors with personality factors to understand sexual orientation.

The stages of Bem's theory are as follows:

Biological factors influence temperament → Temperament predisposes children to prefer some activities over others → If a child doesn't conform to gender roles, he or she may feel different ("exotic") from same-sex peers → Feeling different leads to physiological arousal → Physiological arousal is later interpreted as sexual arousal (erotic)