

## You Know How to Whistle, Don't You?

### Medical 'explanations' for lesbianism

1857	<i>Tardieu</i>	homosexuals as criminally deviant
1860	<i>Ulrichs</i>	homosexuals a 'third sex'
1893	<i>Moll</i>	'unrequited' homosexual women suffer disturbance of the nervous system and outbursts of fury
1894	<i>Krafft-Ebing</i>	lesbianism a cerebral anomaly indicating an inherited diseased condition of the central nervous system
1896	<i>Tarnovsky</i>	homosexuality a result of nervously disturbed, hysterical, insane or diseased parents
1897	<i>Ellis</i>	female 'inversion' the more common; lesbians boyish, nervy and having deep voices and the ability to whistle
1908	<i>Carpenter</i>	female homosexuals 'fiery, active, bold and truthful, with defects running to brusqueness and coarseness'
1917	<i>Adler</i>	lesbianism a 'protest' against male objectification of women
1917	<i>Wolfe</i>	lesbians 'avoiding' the responsibilities of marriage; 'predatory' (unmarried) lesbians, a threat to family life
1920s	<i>Freud</i>	lesbianism an 'abnormality'/ underdevelopment caused by unresolution of Oedipal feelings; characterised by penis envy, mother fixation

1936	<i>Terman, Miles and Kelly</i>	two lesbian types, perverted and inverted, the first outside natural gender alignment, the second emotionally repressed in gender identity
1936	<i>Ellis</i>	lesbianism caused by sex segregation, disappointment or failure in heterosexual love or by excessive masturbation
1936	<i>Hirschfield</i>	an incurable genetic disease
1941	<i>Henry</i>	failure of parents to enforce gendered roles creating a man in a woman's body
1947	<i>Thompson</i>	an underlying disorder 'triggered' when there are no available men
1954	<i>Caprio</i>	a narcissistic extension of auto eroticism triggered by a childhood or adolescent trauma
1963 1965 1976	<i>Socerides, Romm and Wilbur</i>	'contributory' factors- sexual abuse, ambivalence towards parents, fear of men, 'clitoral fixation'
1970	<i>MacDougall</i>	rebellion against mother role resulting in a psychotic identification with the father
1978	<i>Socerides</i>	a masochism leading to a failure to recognise or focus upon the 'object'
1988	<i>Siegal</i>	narcissism again, caused by the mother 'interfering' in her daughter's identification
1989	<i>Quinodoz</i>	a defence against psychotic and Oedipal anxieties

Acknowledgement: Lesbian Information Service  
<http://www.lesbianinformationservice.org/medrole.htm>

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