

Follow The Yellow Brick Road: Re-Learning Consent from Our ForeQueers Terminology

LGBPTQ/Queer: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Trans, Questioning/Queer.

Cisgender: Describes an individual whose gender, gender identity or gender presentation matches with his/her biological sex at birth.

BDSM: Acronym derived from the terms bondage and discipline (B&D or B/D), dominance and submission (D&S or D/s), and sadism and masochism (S&M or S/M). BDSM is an eroticized exchange of power negotiated between two or more sexual partners. The terms “Leather” and “Kink” are sometimes used interchangeably with “BDSM.”

Play: Any time people enter into a sexual encounter that does not follow traditional, mainstream and/or vanilla roles. Sometimes also referred to as a “scene.”

Bottom/Submissive: Refers to the person who gives control in a consensual power exchange and then takes on the who takes on the submissive/receiving role for the duration of play.

Top/Dominant: Refers to the person who is given control in a consensual power exchange and then takes on the dominant/administering role for the duration of play.

True consent: The act of enthusiastically, willingly, physically and verbally agreeing to engage in specific sexual conduct, recognizing that each new level of sexual contact requires consent. True consent is informed consent and requires a reasonably accurate knowledge of possible risks.

Vanilla: Describes people who do not engage in BDSM or any sexual contact considered not “kinky.” Usually used to illustrate a division of communities and ideas.

Negotiation: The process of determining the practices and boundaries of sexual and/or BDSM activities between two or more people. It may apply to the whole relationship or just a specific scene. Negotiating is an ongoing process that is repeated as the players' needs change.

