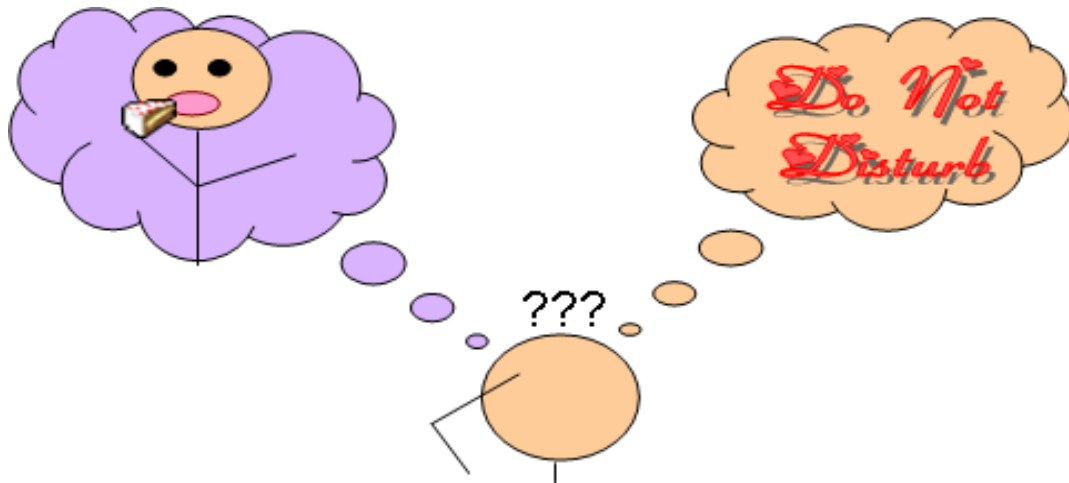


Sexuality as a Spectrum

The Area Between



Sexuality is a spectrum and between asexuality (lacking sexual attraction) and other common orientations (with average or expected levels or frequency of sexual attraction) there is an area that people may fall into where they are not asexual but they feel dissociated from the rest of society.

This is known as the **grey area** and is most well known in the asexual community. The feeling of being different from others prompts people in the grey area to associate with others who feel similarly abnormal in society or they relate to asexuality since their own sexual nature is closest to this than to any other.

As a result of inclusion into the asexual community, people who fall into this area usually identify as “**grey asexual**” or simply “**grey-a**”. They may associate with this for several reasons, including

- ~ Only experiencing sexual attraction rarely or under very specific circumstances.
- ~ Experiencing sexual attraction but without the motivation to act on it.
- ~ Experiencing sexual attraction but not placing a high importance on sexuality.

One particular subcategory that is so well known that it has its own name (and is often considered separately from the rest of the grey area) is **Demisexuality**. This particular variation is defined as only experiencing sexual attraction to a specific person after the creation of a strong emotional bond (such as falling in love) but otherwise being functionally asexual. This is different to monogamy in that the latter is the practice of being faithful to one partner while, in the most case, still able to experience sexual attraction to other people.

People who are demisexual or grey-a can also be any other orientation depending on who their sexual attraction is or potentially is regarding. Some, especially those who have only experienced sexual attraction a few times in their lives, prefer to identify more closely to asexuality and only disclose more details to people on a need to know basis.