

**SEXUALITY, SCIENTIFIC
CULTURES AND THE POLITICS
OF CLASSIFICATION IN SOUTH
AFRICA**

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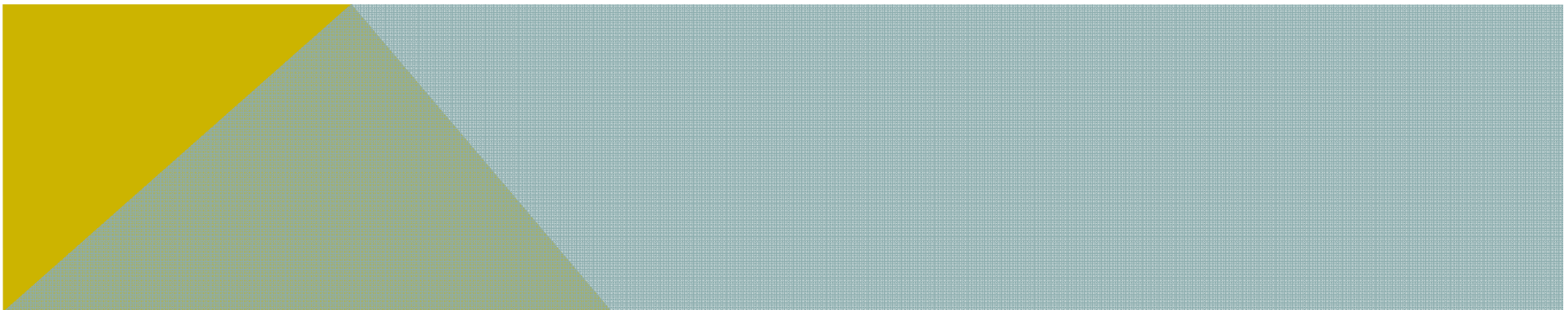
WHAT IS MSM?

- What is it?
- Where did it come from?
- Why is it here?
- What are we doing with it?



SCIENCE AS CULTURE / CULTURES OF SCIENCE

- Culture is a ***process*** that creates, sustains, and revises a range of readily legible statements, gestures, beliefs, meanings and truths about human social existence in a given place and time.
- Likewise, science is a ***process*** of making knowledge through experimentation that creates, sustains, and revises a range of verifiable and credible statements, beliefs, meanings and truths about Nature in a given place and time.
- *All cultures are always in motion, circulating and changing – they can never be described totally at any given moment; they are always infused with politics.*



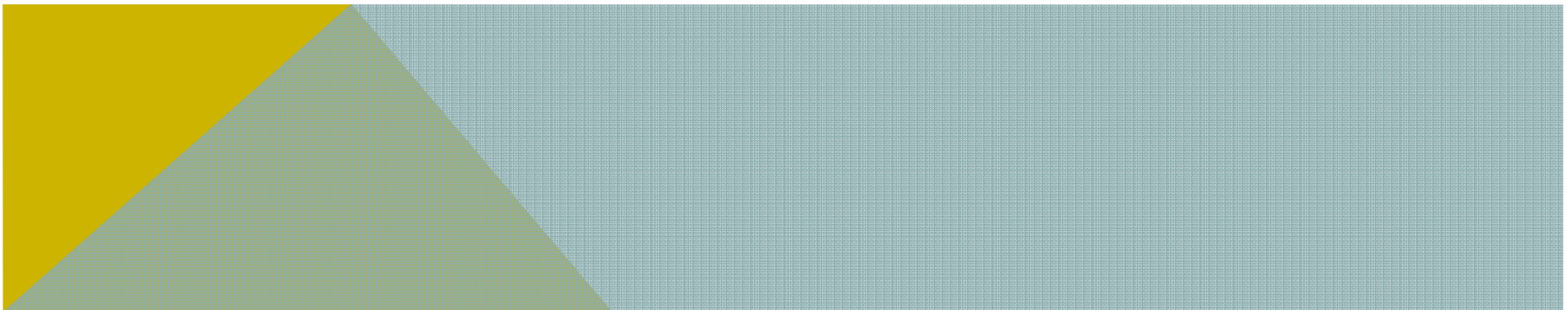
SEXUALITY AND CULTURE

Scientific Cultures

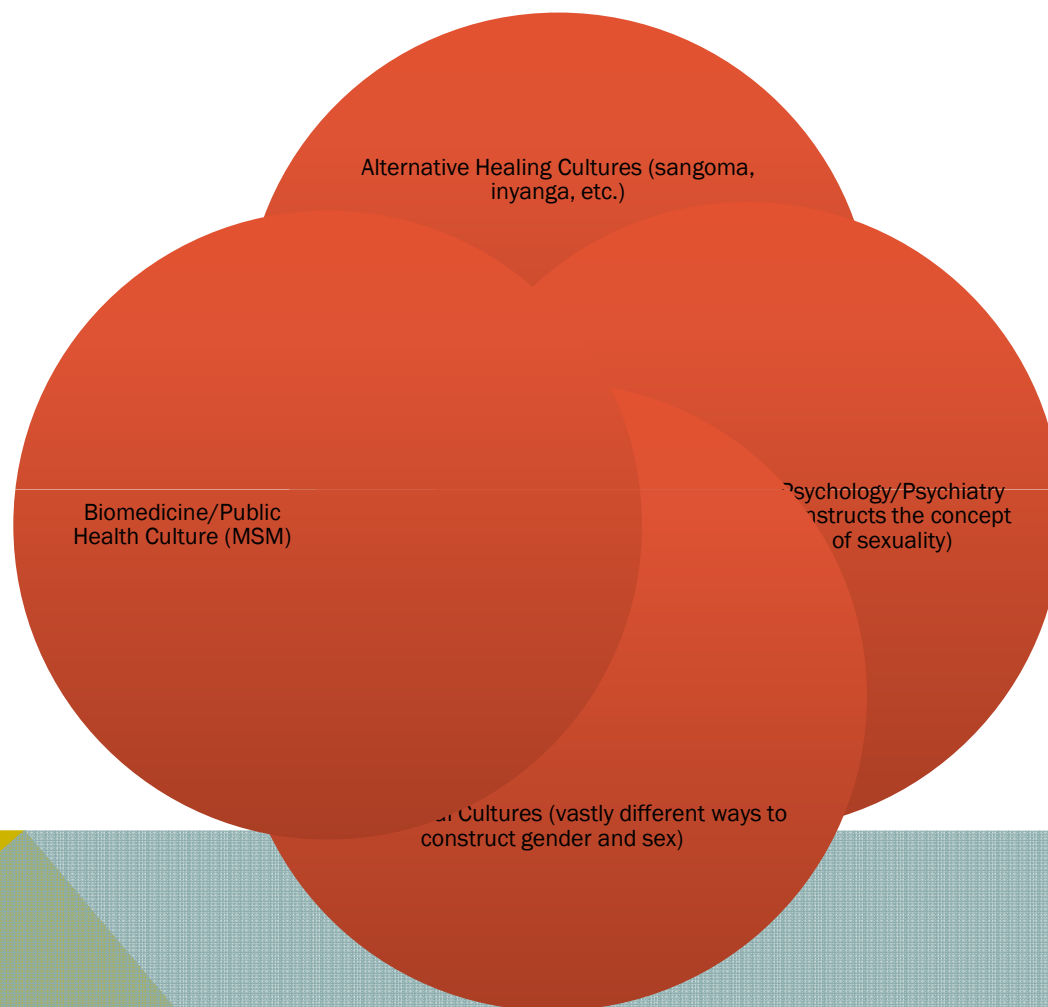
- Psychology and Psychiatry; invented homo/hetero binary and occasions LGB politics, followed most recently by TQI politics.
- Biomedicine / Public Health; invented MSM and occasions risk politics.

Non-Scientific Cultures

- Many and varied; especially in a multi-cultural society like South Africa



CULTURES CIRCULATE AND INTERACT



... Cultures (vastly different ways to construct gender and sex)



THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF CLASSIFICATION

- The Politics of Classification is a culturally and politically sensitive issue.
- Public visibility and contentiousness of same-sex/same-gender sexuality.
- Increasingly acrimonious, political and “culturalist” debates in South Africa and beyond.
- Public health interventions *MUST* take account of multicultural realities.

