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Issue 250

# Origin of Male/Female Personality Traits

*Biology, DNA, Sex/Gender, Polarity, Temperament & Enneagram Type*

**G**enetic predispositions were already formed, way before we were introduced to the enneagram and early life had taught us how to digest and interpret impressions and information. Our ways of seeing life and understanding the world are unique and it starts with how functional our organism is. The genetic code determines our sex, temperament and other traits. To a large extent, these traits direct *what, how, why* and *when* we do, feel and think.

**Jack Labanauskas**

*biology, with devastating effects. Instead of employing only assumptions that meet the test of underlying knowledge, one is free of base one's logic on whatever comes to mind and to pursue this policy full time, in complete ignorance of its futility.*

From *The Folly of Fools*

-- **Robert Trivers**, *One of the most influential evolutionary theorist alive*

*The structure of the natural sciences is as follows. Physics rests on mathematics, chemistry on physics, biology on chemistry, and, in principle, the social sciences on biology. At least the final step is one devoutly to be wished and soon hopefully achieved. Yet discipline after discipline -- from economics to cultural anthropology -- continues to resist growing connections to the underlying science of*

It is reasonable to assume that our earliest and deepest traits are biological and more stable compared to later acquired, culturally induced traits. A long lineage of ancestors transmitted massive amounts of information and abilities via DNA through our parents to us. We were born into an environment that continued to influence and shape us as we engaged with it, to become who we are today.

Studying personality in light of the archetypes of the enneagram, we should be mindful of how we are genetically programmed ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## Gurdjieff's Best Kept Secret

**D**uring George Gurdjieff's 1928-1932 visit to New York he worked closely with a dedicated group of followers, including Edwin Wolfe, who later published a pamphlet of his *Episodes with Gurdjieff*, two of which are quoted below.

**F. Oliver Nicklin**

pass on this keystone, but poorly understood, tenet of Mr. Gurdjieff to "Keep here" in back of head.

In the spring of 1932, ..... I with several others in our group were with Mr. Gurdjieff in his daytime office at Child's Restaurant on Columbus Circle. He had told us this was his final visit to America. He stood up as if to leave.

"Mr. Gurdjieff," I said, "you said this is your last visit to America. You are not coming back. There will be no more group meetings, or readings, or anything ..... We'll be all alone now.

What can we do, Mr. Gurdjieff? Please tell us something."

He looked at all of us slowly. He touched the back of his head. "You keep here," he said. "You not forget. Keep here."

After this group evolved into the Gurdjieff Foundation of New York, thankfully, at least one of the descendants of the early members has continued to selectively

Importantly, in focusing on the "back of head", Gurdjieff definitely did not intend to substitute "mind observation" for one's whole "self-observation", as Wolfe explained in an earlier episode.

"We feel that there may be something wrong in the way we are doing self-observation. Are we wrong, Mr. Gurdjieff?"

"Never you do self-observation," he said forcefully. "You do mind observation. Mind observation you do. Can even make psychopath."

Also, we know from Ouspensky's *In Search of the Miraculous* that Gurdjieff's whole self involves all three of our Enneagram centers as a triune, which are outlined below.

- The physical / moving center (i.e., the way of the fakir)
- The feeling / emotional center (i.e., the way of the monk)
- The intellectual / thinking center (i.e., the way of the yogi)

In addition, we learned from scientific ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

<b>In This Issue</b>	Groundness & more <b>Michael Damian-</b> page 4	Polarization... <b>Bill Dyke</b> page 5	...Gender/Type <b>Courtney Behm</b> page 8	4 Temperaments <b>Renee Baron</b> page 10	E.& Neuroscience <b>Liliana Atz</b> page 13	Mystic Math <b>Daniel Morse</b> page 15
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In the interest of supporting Frederik Coene's research initiated after last summer's IEA conference in Oakland CA (see last issue *Research Enneagroup*), I am adding several articles with time tested themes based on polarities of personality seen from different angles; scientific research, personal experiences, and theoretic considerations. We can decide what may fit in with the enneagram, and if it could verify what we already know, stimulate further search for evidence and would either support or disprove what we know.

Currently Frederik Coene's research is focused on male/female differences and how that relates to enneagram type (see *EM* issue #246). It's a good choice of subject as it addresses a field that is as full of controversial information. You would think that this age old question of the differences would be settled by now... alas, it is not.

In most cultures male/female roles were stable and enduring since generations. The current postmodern age of information opened the door for re-thinking and re-arranging long established traditions. Modern societies in the current information age can no longer find solace in religious traditions and national customs. Gone are the days when social values were allowed to evolve slowly over centuries.

Modernity gives us enough tools and time to contemplate new meaning for things beyond immediate survival needs. We now have the leisure to question hierarchies, traditions and customs. And so we do.

This is not happening without friction between those who trust traditions and want to hold on to them and those who dare replacing them with something new and not yet tested. We see that now in questioning male/female roles, whether it's biology or culture that determines the sexes. Polarization is now de rigeur in all areas of social life and extends to race, ethnicity, religion, law or politics, but I'm repeating myself.

#### In this Issue:

Looking at "Origin of Male/Female Personality Traits: *Biology, DNA, Sex/Gender, Polarity, Temperament & Enneagram Type*" **Jack Labanuskas** encourages us to expand our knowledge of personality by considering additional factors that contribute to the formation of who we are. As complex beings we are faced with unlimited questions and limited answers; we can either choose to explore a few narrow sections of life deeply or more sections more broadly. Most of us choose to compromise and follow natural interest and inclinations in a flexible manner. Learning, more personality systems can add grist to the mill.

Enneagram typing calls for a sophisticated and advanced awareness of human nature. Such awareness is acquired by life experience, observation and by discerning between qualities that are specifically enneagram related without excluding others that may be better defined by another system.

**F. Oliver Nicklin** tells what "Gurdjieff's Best Kept Secret" was that he told a group of his followers before leaving of his final visit to the USA. It was a laconic instruction to his students who were asking him for a last advice as he was not coming back. He admonished them to "never do self-observation"

## From the Editor

but forcefully said "You do mind observation. Mind observation you do. Can even make psychopath." Gurdjieff then gestured how to activate all three Enneagram centers as a triune: the physical/moving center; the feeling/emotional center and the intellectual/thinking center. In following decades, science is confirming how right an advice it was.

**Michael Damian** "Groundedness, Freedom, Steadfastness & Evil of False Ideas" touches on points regarding our personality type like the negative results of trying to live solely within our preferred functions, whereas if we try to live solely through our intuitive-feeling functions, it creates ungrounded mysticism.

All conditions in our outward life are due to the sum of our karma, but our karma is also affected by the degree of wisdom, love and truth that we have realized. Spiritual wisdom, or freedom, has the effect of freeing up or purifying a lot of negative karmas.

Knowing that awareness is always present is day one of spiritual kindergarten. From there we must reform our character, and that's not easy. Let's consider the probability that the greatest evils of the world are not performed by psychopaths. They start with seductively false ideas, and they are committed by people who think they are building a better world.

**Bill Dyke** has first-hand observations dealing with clients and counseling businesses on "Polarization, Balance, Theory X/Theory Y and the Enneagram." It's a certain kind of polarization that Bill blames for creating so many breakdowns in public discourse. And we are witnessing breakdowns currently that turn more and more radical and at an ever increasing speed. Who cares about civility or the value of the opposing viewpoints, when we're fighting for our point of view?

It's become an either/or battle: Between Darwin vs. Intelligent Design, Male vs. Female and so on. Bill offers a proposal that can help us regain balance by re-examining polarization from a perspective where polarity cannot be actually "defused" because it is at the root of creation. Polarity however can be understood and respected as a thing of beauty and reassuring the order of the universe rather than the imposition of a wicked flaw designed to poison all of our endeavors. A wise approach to polarity is concerned with the balance of the poles of opposites, not their elimination, which is, by the way, impossible.

**Andrew Hahn** and **Joan Beckett** believe that the "Relationship of Masculine/ Feminine to the Enneagram" rests on two elements in life that are hardwired. The first is biological structure and the second is psychic structure. Biological structure, which represents the realm of measurable matter, manifests in physical sex differences—i.e., whether we are born male/female. Psychic structure or gender, appears to be less hard-wired and more flexible, represents the realm of soul/spirit, manifests in core archetypes, centers and subtypes.

**Courtney Behm** is "Transcending Gender and Type" by taking the position that focusing on essence

is more relevant than focusing on gender. Gender being just one of many qualities that are not biologically determined at birth (unchangeable, short of surgery where and if possible) but determines our sex "accouterments" that we possess. Type is another. What matters is how we can get past such differences so we can experience ourselves in a less limited fashion. Here's how she puts it: "To me, the Enneagram is less a classification system than it is a map to a more universal, essential way of being in the world, where gender takes a back seat to a more inclusive, elemental, essential self hood. And in the light of essence, the importance of gender-type differences pales in contrast to the challenge of discovering the parts of us that transcend classification, reach across barriers of gender, type, culture, age, and belief, and carry the spark of the divine."

**Renee Baron** offers a well thought out summary of "The Four Temperaments" and a questionnaire that should help anyone who has questions about their temperament to gain more clarity. Knowing one's temperament can be as life transforming as knowing your enneagram type. It can put a realistic and benevolent perspective on how we judge ourselves and ease the urges to comply with expectations that the environment, including our attempts to adapt, places on us.

Every additional level or layer of coming closer to your true nature brings us a step closer to freedom from misguided assumptions of who we are and how to be. It also brings us closer to realizing that the best we can do in life is already programmed in us; hiding, waiting to be discovered, befriended and made an ally.

**Liliana Atz** puts "Enneagram in Light of Neuroscience" in a way that combines her findings in medicine, Taoism and Enneagram in a fascinating way. Along a similar line of thought as the front page article Gurdjieff's Best Kept Secret by F. Oliver Nicklin. Liliana sees how the triads (instinctual, feeling and thinking) are particularly activated in three different parts of the brain: the Reptilian Complex, the Limbic System and the Neocortex. This implies that each enneagram type, and certainly each center does not only have a special relationship to the neurotransmitters (like serotonin, dopamine norepinephrine) but also has its own physical location.

**Daniel Morse** found answers to his enneagram questions in "Mystic Math: *All is Number*" as a famous Pythagorean quote says. Come to think of it, numbers do transcend linguistics and speak a universal mathematics language in all languages. There is something comforting and stable, a level of confidence and trust in that. Moreover, Daniel finds and highlights the mysterious repeating structures and rules that follow unbreakable patters that are verifiable, repeatable structures strongly indicative of the intelligent design that underlie all creation in our universe. Well, as long as we stay within the currently known and accepted dimensions of course.

The enneagram is also resting on the same numeric structures and under the same rules as mathematics itself.

# enneagram monthly

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## Enneagram Monthly

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The Enneagram Monthly, Inc. was founded by Jack Labanauskas and Andrea Isaacs as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to gather and disseminate information in the field of the Enneagram, that is most commonly known as a personality typing system.

For subscription and advertising rates see back cover.

# contents

Origin of Male/Female Personality Traits . . . . .	Jack Labanauskas	1
. . . . . <i>Biology, DNA, Sex/Gender, Polarity, Temperament and Enneagram Type</i>		
Gurdjieff's Best Kept Secret . . . . .	F. Oliver Nicklin	1
From the Editor. . . . .	Jack Labanauskas	2
Groundedness, Freedom Steadfastness & Evil of False Ideas. . . . .	Michael Damian	4
Polarization/Balance, Theory X / Theory Y, and the Enneagram . . . . .	Bill Dyke	5
Relationship of Masculine/Feminine to the Enneagram. . . . .	Andrew Hahn & Joan Beckett	8
Transcending Gender and Type . . . . .	Courtney Behm	8
The Four Temperaments . . . . .	Renee Baron	10
Enneagram in Light of Neuroscience. . . . .	Liliana Atz	13
Mystic Math: <i>All is Number</i> . . . . .	Daniel Morse	15
Couples Relationships and the Enneagram . . . . .	Michelle Joy	19
Teachers Listing /Subscription Forms and Ad Rates. . . . .		23 /24

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**Michelle Joy** has her "Couples Relationship (focus on type 2) and the enneagram" 2's are caring, attentive, thoughtful, giving, accommodating and

nurturing. They are tuned into their partner's needs, supporting and caring for their partner. However, this can sometimes be at the detriment of their own

needs, which can impact the relationship.

Very skilled at anticipating, it also comes naturally and easily for them.

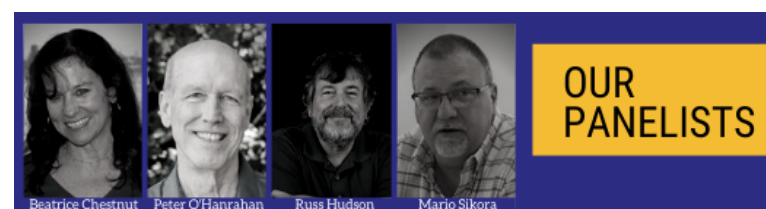
 International  
**ENNEAGRAM**  
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## IEA 2020 Event

Deepening Your Enneagram Understanding  
Through an Exploration of the  
Instinctual Subtypes – Panel Presentation

**April 3-4, 2020**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Register Now!**



This exploration is less about determining a definitive right or wrong view on the Instinctual Subtypes but instead an understanding of distinctions with the different views and an emphases on personal growth in self-awareness.

Our Moderators, **Leslie Hershberger** and **Curt Micka**, will lead the interviews with the panelists. Attendees will also participate in reflection exercises and small group breakouts.

## EVENT DETAILS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

6:30PM-9:30PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:00AM-4:00PM

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

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HOTEL IEA RATE OF \$139

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