

UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S PERCEPTION OF TRANSGENDER IDENTITIES IN JAPAN AND AMERICA



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Spring 2017



Outline

- ◎ Significance of the Study
- ◎ Research Questions
- ◎ Literature Review
- ◎ Research Method
- ◎ Findings
- ◎ Conclusion
- ◎ Limitations
- ◎ Bibliography
- ◎ Acknowledgements



Significance of the Study

Alex

- ⦿ Personal significance being transgender
- ⦿ Desire to learn where misinformation/ stereotypes about people who identify as transgender originate from

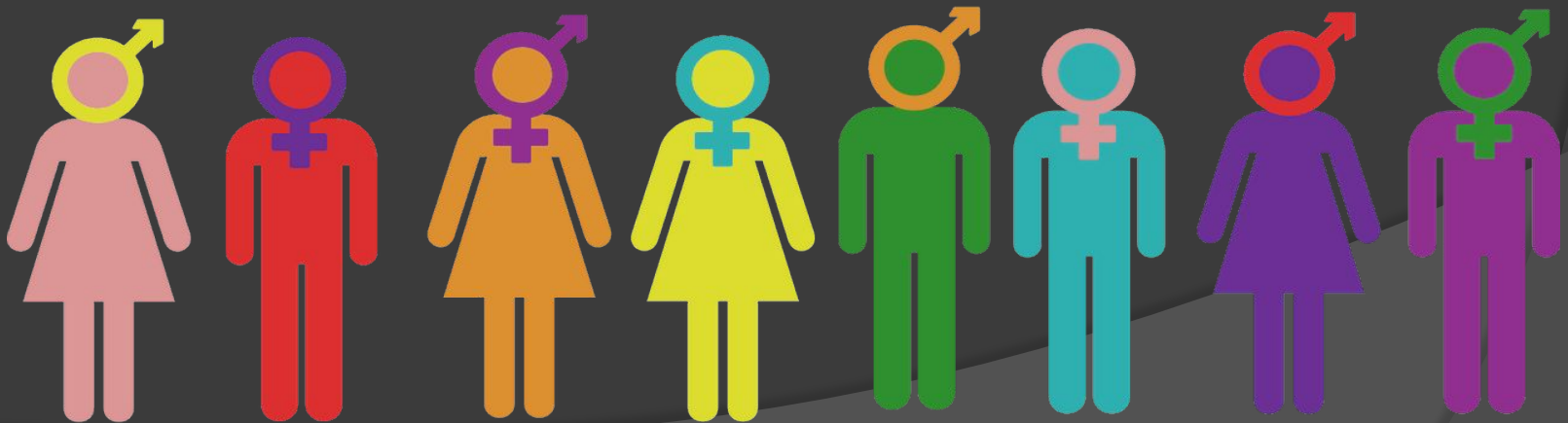
Marquie

- ⦿ Transgender issues are important in modern society and are often overlooked
- ⦿ Has a friend that wants to transition to female but cannot due to her family's religious ideology



Research Questions

1. What are college student's perceptions about transgender identities?
2. What influences these perceptions about transgender identities?



Literature Review Outline

- ◎ Transgender Terms
- ◎ Japanese Terms
- ◎ History of Transgenderism
- ◎ Transgender Statistics
- ◎ Difficulties and Setbacks
- ◎ Transgenderism and Religion
- ◎ Transgenderism and Education
- ◎ Transgenderism and Media



Transgender Terms

Transgender: an umbrella term for many different identities, those who identify as trans have a gender identity, sex, and/or gender expression that does not line up with the sex they were labeled with at birth

Gender Neutral

Transsexual

Cross Dressing

Agender

Intersex

Gender Fluid

Bigender

MtF
(Male to Female)

Gender Queer

FtM
(Female to Male)

Japanese Terms

Folk Categories - terms native to Japan that describe identities outside of the strict gender binary that is enforced by modern, Western medicine

Dansho - cross dressing male prostitute

Gay Boy - effeminate, homosexual men who occasionally cross dressed

Blue Boy - transgender males, often performers, who have undergone sexual reassignment surgery

Okama - 'passive' or 'effeminate' homosexual male

Mr. Lady/New Half - transgender male entertainers who have undergone varying degrees of sexual reassignment surgery, drawing upon both male and female gender identities

History of Transgenderism in the U.S.



Native American tribes recognize “**two spirited**” third gender identities, though the term isn’t coined until the 1990s

Pre-Columbian Era

*Dance to the Berdache**,
1861-69 by George Catlin



*the term berdache, meaning “passive partner in sodomy” or “male prostitute”, was used by colonists and anthropologists to describe effeminate men within Native American tribes

History of Transgenderism in the U.S. cont.

1917 - Dr. Alan Hart is first documented transmale to undergo a hysterectomy and gonadectomy



1969 - Stonewall Riots jumpstart organized LGBT rights



1900's ~

50's

60's

1952 - Actress Christine Jorgensen becomes first widely known MTF



History of Transgenderism in the U.S. cont.

1976 - M.T v. J.T. first court case that allowed transsexuals to marry in their post-op sex



1993 - Minnesota becomes first state to pass nondiscriminatory laws regarding gender identity



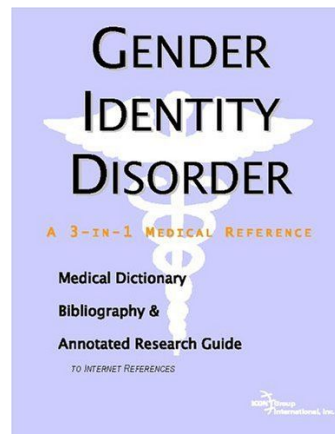
Minnesota Department of
HUMAN RIGHTS

1970's

80's

90's

1987 - American Psychiatric Association officially classifies transpeople as having "Gender Identity Disorder"



1999 - Transgender Pride Flag created by transfemale Monica Helms



History of Transgenderism in the U.S. cont.

2003 - National Center for Transgender Equality founded



2009 - **The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act** revises the definition of a federal hate crime to include...



2000's ~

2003 - Transgender American Veterans Association founded



...violent crimes in which the victim is selected because of their perceived gender or gender identity

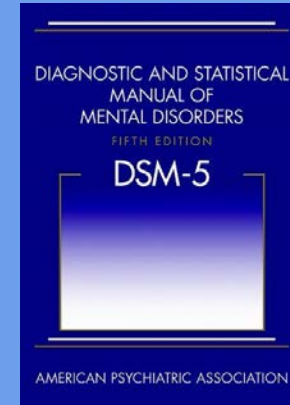


Recent Transgender History in the U.S.

2012 - Girl Scouts of Colorado issue a statement welcoming all children who identify as girls



2013 - American Psychiatric Association changes the term "Gender Identity Disorder" to "Gender Dysphoria" with the release of DSM-V



2010's ~

2012 - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) declares transgendered people protected under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act



2014 - Department of Health and Human Services reverses Medicare policy from 1981 now stating that Medicare must cover sexual reassignment surgery

Medicare

Recent Transgender History in the U.S. cont.

2015 - Barack Obama is first President to address LGBT community in State of the Union Address



2016 - Ban on transgender people in military service lifted



2015 ~

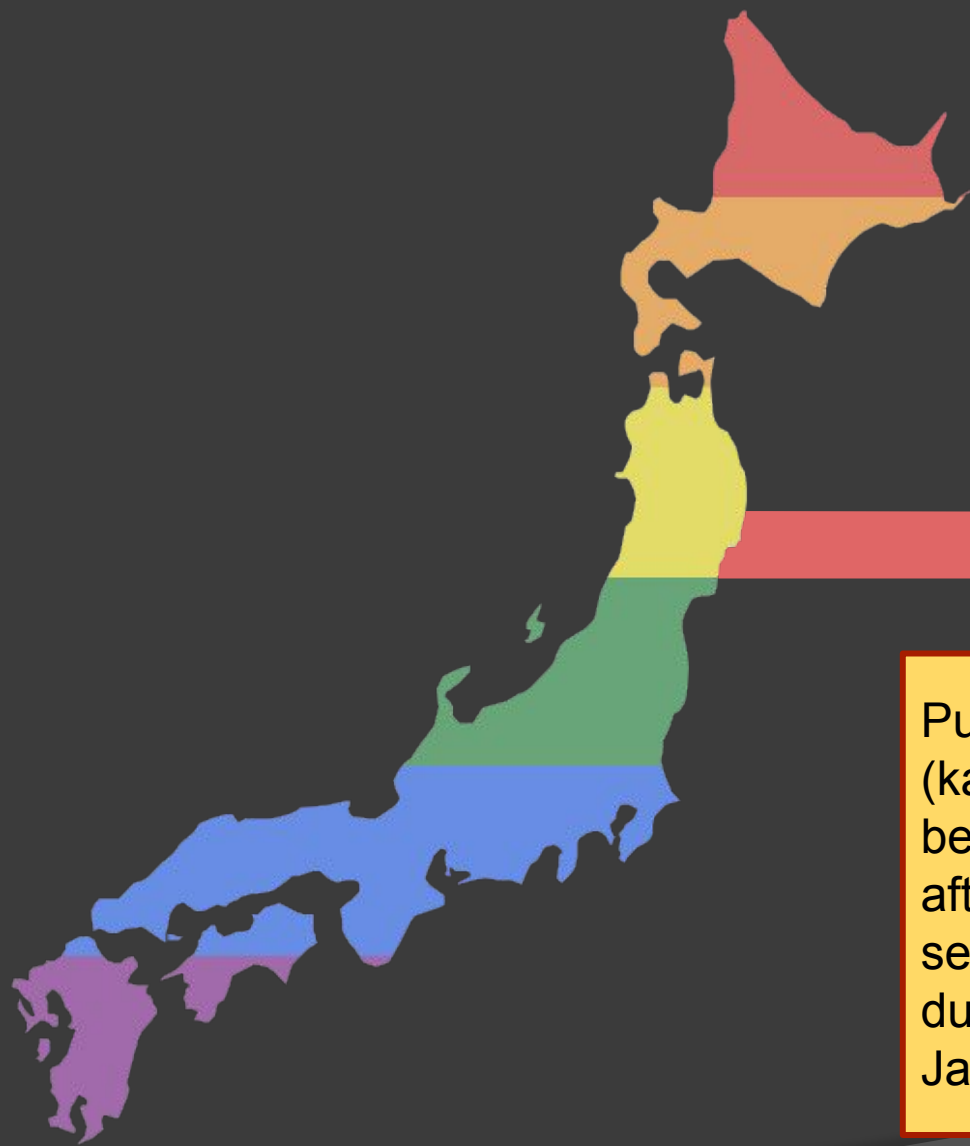
2016 - Oregon court allows resident Jamie Shupe to legally change their gender to non-binary becoming first legally non-binary person in the U.S.



2017 - Boy Scouts of America allow transgender boys to enroll in boys only programs



History of Transgenderism in Japan



Wakashu,
effeminate
pubescent boys,
defy gender
through their
appearance
and sexual
partners



Edo Period

Post-WWII

Pulp magazines
(kasutori zasshi)
begin publication
after a halt of
sexual knowledge
during 15 years of
Japanese militarism



History of Transgenderism in Japan cont.

Eugenic Protection Law of 1948 prohibits elimination of an individual's ability to procreate without legitimate grounds (disease, mental illness, etc.)

Early 1950s magazines began to feature articles that focused on fetishes including crossdressing, most popularly dansho, which was not differentiated from transgenderism at the time

1950's ~

1951 - Nagai Akiko is first recorded MTF sex change, one year before Christine Jorgensen makes the surgery well known in the U.S.

Dansho group photo from 1951



History of Transgenderism in Japan cont.

Early 60s saw the rise of gay boys and blue boys, transgender performers in show bars

1961 - Italian film *Europa di Notte* featuring transsexual performers is introduced to Japan creating the blue boy boom



1960's ~

1960 - *Fuzoku kitan*, a magazine consistent to transgenderism and crossdressing topics, begins publication



1965 - Investigation of removal of healthy male sex organs results in Blue Boy Trial, ruling any such surgeries as a crime as it is in violation of the Eugenics Protection Law of 1948

History of Transgenderism in Japan cont.

Early 80s saw the rise of two new terms: “New Half” & “Mr. Lady” designating entertainers who have had varying degrees of surgery

1988 - Term ‘Mr. Lady’ becomes popularized thanks to French/Italian film *La Cage Aux Folles*, released as *Mr. Lady*, *Mr. Madam* in Japan in 1978



1980's ~

1981 - Term “New Half” is coined by Betty of Betty’s Mayonnaise, a drag bar in Osaka, stating “I’m half man and woman”



1988 - TV program *Waratte ii tomo!* introduces a segment entitled ‘Mr. Lady’ as a transgender beauty contest



History of Transgenderism in Japan cont.

1996 - Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology officially recognizes sex reassignment surgery, ending a 30 year ban



2003 - Aya Kamikawa becomes first openly transgender person to win an elected office, later re-elected in 2007 for second term



1990's ~

2000's ~

2010's ~

2003 - Gender Identity Disorder awareness creates GID Act allowing transgender individuals to change their sex on the family registry

2017 - Tomoya Hosoda becomes first transmale elected for public office



(Taniguchi, 2004)

(Saitama Newspaper, 2017)

Transgender Statistics

In the U.S.

- ⦿ Estimated **1.4 million transgender adults** from 2016 study by the Williams Institute
- ⦿ **0.6% of America's adult population**
- ⦿ **0.76% of California's population**

(Williams Institute, 2016)

In Japan

- ⦿ Estimated **7,000-10,000 transgender people**
- ⦿ **1 in 20, or 5.2% population** estimate as conducted by a 2012 internet survey by Dentsu Inc.

(Dentsu Inc., 2012)



Though the **number of transgender individuals is higher in the U.S.** the **percentage is higher in Japan** most likely due to population density.

Transgenderism and Religion in the U.S.

Biblical Texts in the Old Testament:

⦿ Genesis 1:27

- So God created man in His own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.

⦿ Leviticus 21:16-20

- The Lord said to Moses...‘For the generations to come none of your descendants who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed...or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles...

⦿ Deuteronomy 22:5

- A woman shall not wear a man’s apparel, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment; for whoever does such things is abhorrent to the Lord your God.

⦿ Deuteronomy 23:1

- No one whose testicles are crushed or whose penis is cut off shall be admitted to the assembly of the Lord.

Transgenderism and Religion in the U.S. cont.

Biblical Texts in the New Testament:

◎ **Matthew 6:25/Luke 12:22**

- Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life; what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

◎ **Matthew 19:12**

- For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.

◎ **Acts 8:36-38**

- As they were going along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Transgenderism and Religion in the U.S. cont.

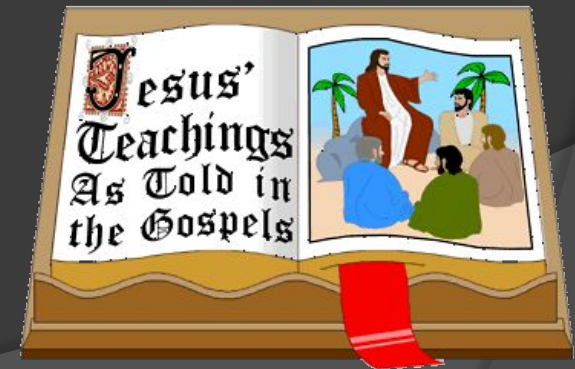
Transgenderism & Judaism

- **The Torah (Old Testament)**
 - Asserts gender in terms of “maleness” and “femaleness” as seen in Genesis 1
 - Prohibits crossdressing as seen in Deuteronomy 22
 - Strictly forbids eunuchs and those with damaged testis to enter into religious assemblies as seen in Leviticus 21 and Deuteronomy 23



Transgenderism & Christianity

- **Jesus' teachings (New Testament)**
 - Is said to have abolished the Old Testament laws regarding clothing and crossdressing (Matthew 6 and Luke 12)
 - Accepts eunuchs as candidates for evangelism and baptism as seen in the verses about the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8)



Transgenderism and Religion in Japan

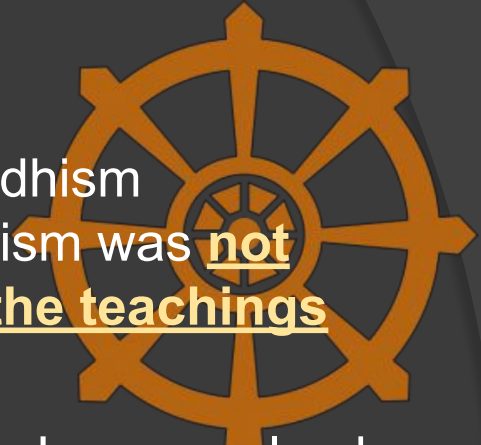
Shinto

- Doctrines not clearly declared against transpeople
- Crossdressing is a part of Shinto tradition
 - Females were not able to participate in rituals
 - Males sometimes crossdressed inside and outside of rituals
- A few Shinto Kami (divine beings) have changed genders
 - Inari Kami are depicted as male or female



Buddhism

- In early Buddhism transgenderism was not included in the teachings
- Buddhism in Japan evolved from Mahayana Buddhism which leans towards gender equality for all
 - This varies by teachings and schools in modern Buddhism
- In modern teachings transgenderism is thought to be a result of Karma from one's past life (adultery, multiple partners, etc.)



Transgenderism and Religion in Japan cont.



Kami Inari

- ❖ Shown as crossing genders as both a manifestation of an old man or young woman

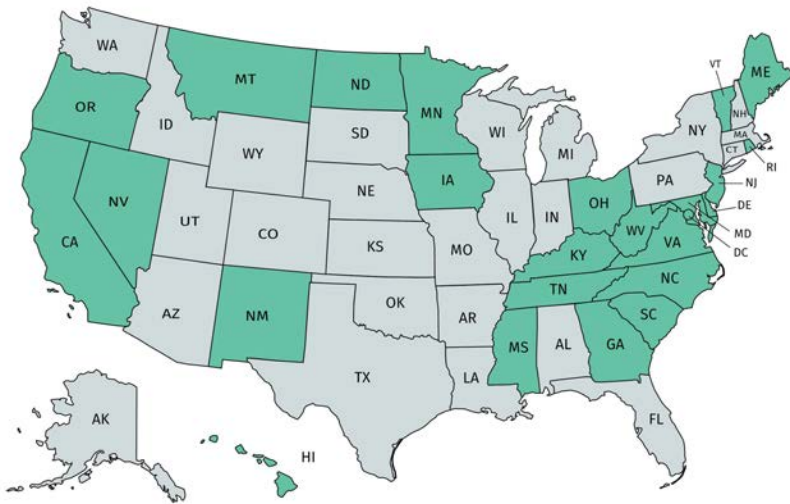
Guan Yin (Kannon)

- ❖ Mahayana Bodhisattvas, referred to as Mercy god/goddess in English, is depicted as both male and female to display a transcendence beyond gender

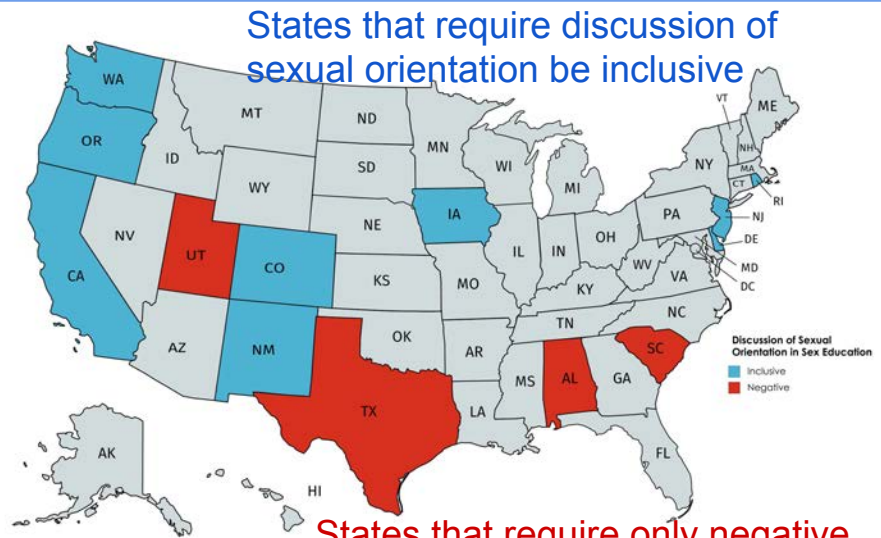
Transgenderism and Education in the U.S.

Transgenderism as a part of Sex Education

- Only 24 states mandate sex education
- Only 13 states require discussion of sexual orientation
 - 4 of those states require only negative information on sexual orientation
- No states mandate the discussion of gender identity within sex education classes



States that mandate sex education



States that require only negative information on sexual orientation

Transgenderism and Education in the U.S. cont.

U.S. Department of Education and Justice Official Letter

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance, this includes gender identity and transgender status

	Protects	Does Not Protect
Names and Pronouns	x	
Restrooms and Locker Rooms	x	
Athletics	x	
Single-Sex Classes	x	
Single-Sex Schools		x
Fraternities and Sororities		x
Housing	x	

Transgenderism and Education in Japan

Support in the School System

- ❖ In 2017 Japan's national bullying prevention policy began to include protection of sexual and gender minorities in schools
- ❖ Education ministry is urging schools to allow students to use locker rooms and uniforms with the gender they identify with

(Murai, 2015)

(Human Rights Watch, 2017)

Problems in the School System

- ❖ A 2011 Takarazuka University School of Nursing survey showed that only 14% of teachers teach about the subject
- ❖ Teachers' lack of understanding allows room for bullying
 - Conforming society makes it hard for schools to separate discipline and bullying
 - "出る釘は打たれる" (The nail that sticks out gets hammered down)

(West Japan Newspaper, 2013)

Transgenderism and Education in Japan cont.

Educational System

- ❖ Some prefectures are starting to take action on educating about transgenderism
 - In 2013 Fukuoka prefecture held workshops teaching about LGBT issues
 - Elementary students were taught through stories
 - Workshops were held in by the Kumamoto Prefecture to educate elementary and middle school teachers on LGBT issues



Transgenderism and Media in the U.S.

Television

◎ GLAAD's *Where We Are on TV* Report

- Since 1995 the “Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation” has released an annual “Where We Are on TV” report which analyzes:
 - Overall diversity of primetime scripted series regulars on broadcast networks
 - Number of LGBTQ characters on cable networks and streaming services

Broadcast Television* Year	Transwomen	Transmen
2010 - 2011	0	0
2011 - 2012	0	0
2012 - 2013	1	0
2013 - 2014	1	0
2014 - 2015	0	0
2015 - 2016	0	0
2016 - 2017	3	0

*includes ABC, CBS, The CW, FOX, NBC, etc.

(GLAAD, 2017)

Transgenderism and Media in the U.S. cont.

◎ GLAAD's *Where We Are on TV* Report cont.

Cable Television* Year	Transwomen	Transmen
2010 - 2011	0	1
2011 - 2012	0	1
2012 - 2013	1	1
2013 - 2014	0	1
2014 - 2015	0	1
2015 - 2016	2	1
2016 - 2017	2	4

*includes Freeform (previously ABC Family), TNT, MTV, Starz, Showtime, etc.

Streaming Site* Year	Transwomen	Transmen
2015 - 2016	4	1
2016 - 2017	7	0

*original content created and streamed by Amazon, Netflix, and Hulu

(GLAAD, 2017)

Transgenderism and Media in the U.S. cont.

Recurring trans characters played by transpeople:

The Fosters
(ABC Family)
Cole played by
Tom Phelan
(Transmale)



Sense8
(Netflix)
Nomi Marks played
by **Jamie Clayton**
(Transwoman)



***Orange is the
New Black***
(Netflix)
Sophia Burset
played by
Laverne Cox
(Transwoman)



Transgenderism and Media in the U.S. cont.

Major Motion Films

◎ GLAAD's *Studio Responsibility Index*

- Since 2013 GLAAD has released an annual SRI which reports the quantity, quality, and diversity of LGBT characters in films released by 7 major motion picture studios:

- 20th Century Fox
- Lionsgate Entertainment
- Paramount Pictures
- Sony Columbia
- Universal Pictures
- Walt Disney Studios
- Warner Brothers



Transgenderism and Media in the U.S. cont.

◎ GLAAD's *Studio Responsibility Index* cont.

- Characters are put through the [Vito Russo Test](#) judging an LGBT character's representation
 - i. The film contains a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender
 - ii. That character must not be solely or predominantly defined by their sexual orientation or gender identity
 - iii. The LGBT character must be tied into the plot in such a way that their removal would have a significant effect; they are not there to set up a punchline

of the **126** films released in 2015 only **1** was trans-inclusive

Paramount Pictures, Disney Studios, and Warner Bros. received a **failing** grade

Lionsgate, Sony Columbia Pictures, and Universal Pictures received an **adequate** grade

Transgenderism and Media in the U.S. cont.

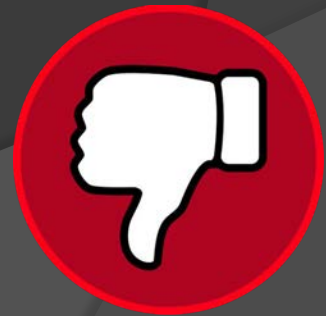
Television Summary

- Regular and recurring transgender characters have **more than doubled** from 2015 across all tv platforms adding up to **16 total trans characters**
- Streaming sites have pioneered in positive transgender character representation



Major Motion Film Summary

- All 7 major motion film studios have **averaged adequate - failing gradings**
- The single trans-inclusive film from 2015 **presented the transwoman as a joke** upon revealing her identity
- Defamatory stereotypes are largely presented
- Trans characters' identities and presentations are often **used as a punchline**, something for the audience to laugh at



Transgenderism and Media in Japan

- ❖ Transgenderism has been historically associated with entertainment industries and continues today
- ❖ The roles associated with transgender people have led to the issue not being taken seriously as they are viewed as a performance and not a person's identity
- ❖ On TV, “**Onee**” characters are popular when representing feminine males and transfemales



Transfemales
receive **more**
attention in the
media than
transmales

Transgenderism and Media in Japan cont.

- ❖ Aya Kamikawa was heavily influenced by the media and believed her role in society had to represent the media's portrayal



“There is a **huge gap** between what **people see in the media** and what they **hear from actual people**...I don't think those programs help to promote understandings of the diversity of sexuality.”

- ❖ Before running for political office, Aya Kamikawa had believed entertainment jobs were the only option transgender people could choose for a “career”

Japanese TV is known to **exploit** the issues but **not address it** directly

Aya Kamikawa was a hostess before running for office!

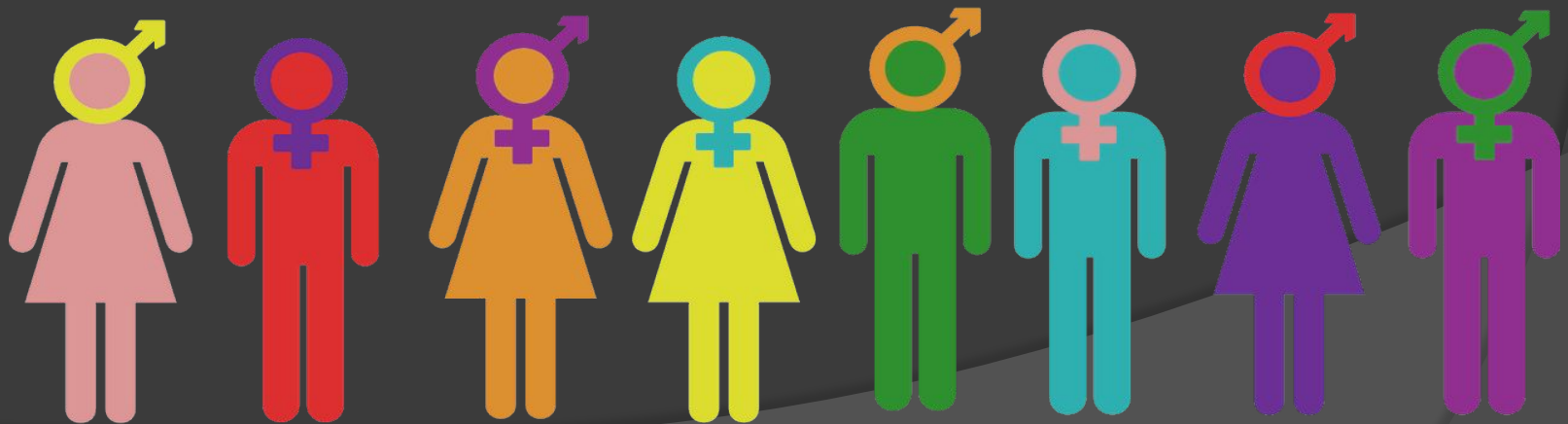
Research Method

- ◎ Student participants
 - 63 total participants
 - 31 American students
 - 15 male students
 - 16 female students
 - 32 Japanese students
 - 15 male students
 - 17 female students
- ◎ Instrument: Online Survey
 - English Survey ([Google Forms](#))
 - Japanese Survey ([Google Forms](#))

Research Findings

Research Question 1:

What are college student's perceptions about transgender identities?



Biological Statements

U.S.

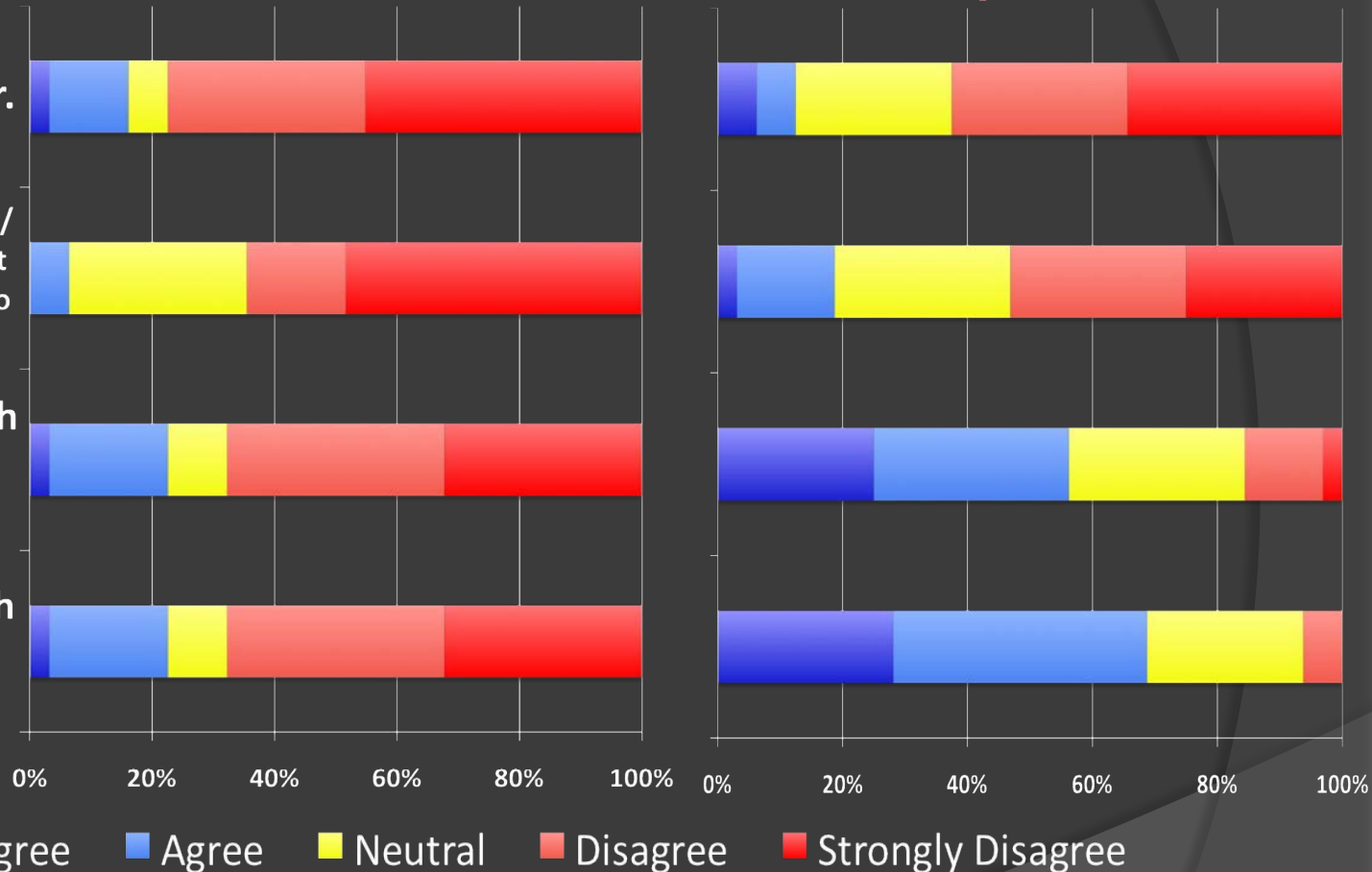
Japan

Genitalia equals gender.

People who identify as bigender/
gender non-conforming are just
confused and haven't grown into
their body.

People that are born with
a penis and testis are
strictly male.

People that are born with
a vagina and uterus are
strictly female.



U.S. students are more likely to **strongly disagree** that a person's genitalia directly correlates to gender, while Japanese students **agree** genitalia equals an assigned sex.

Restroom Statements

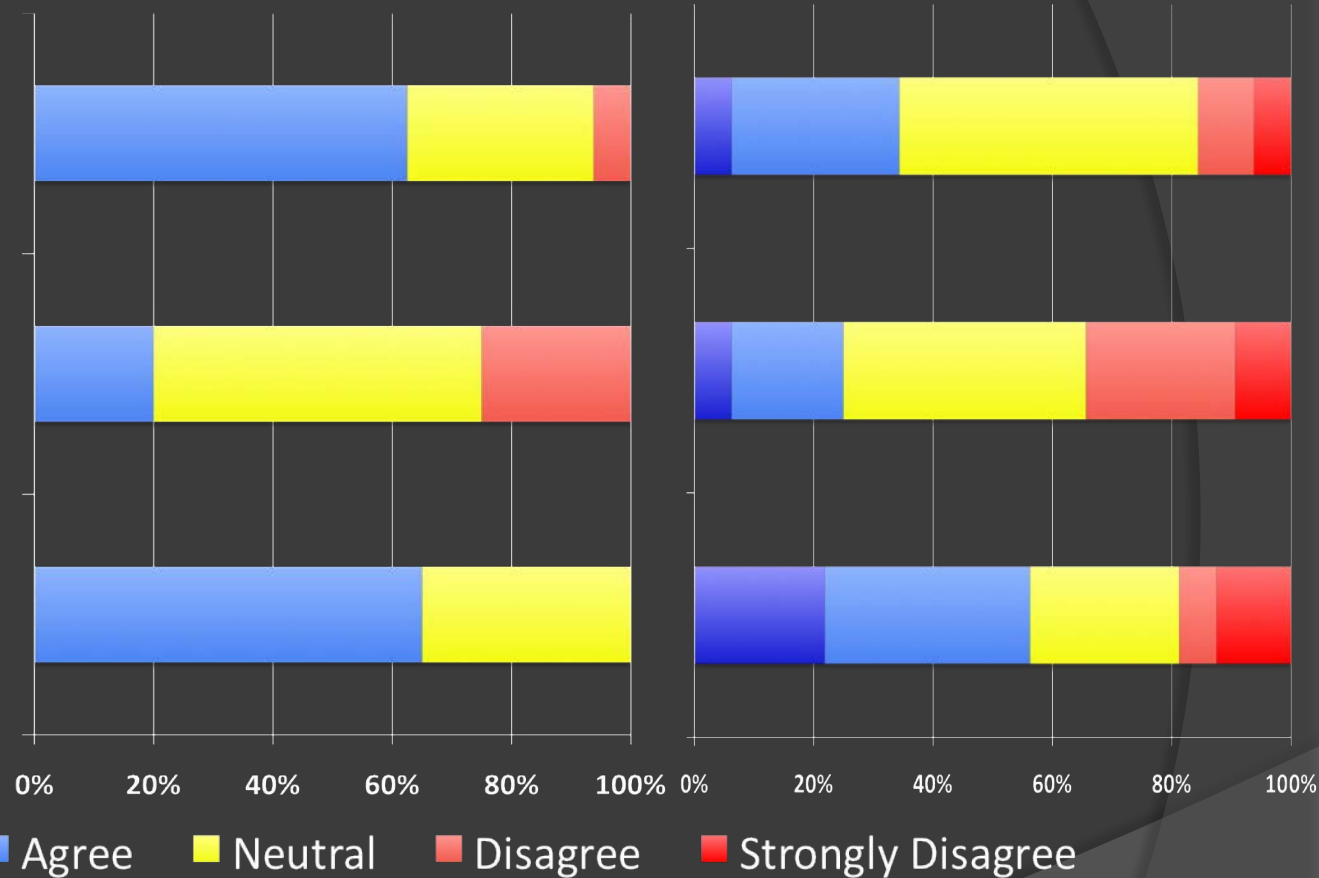
U.S.

Japan

Transpeople should be able to use public restrooms corresponding to the gender they identify as.

Nonbinary individuals should be allowed to use either the women's or men's restroom.

Gender neutral restrooms should be required in all public facilities.

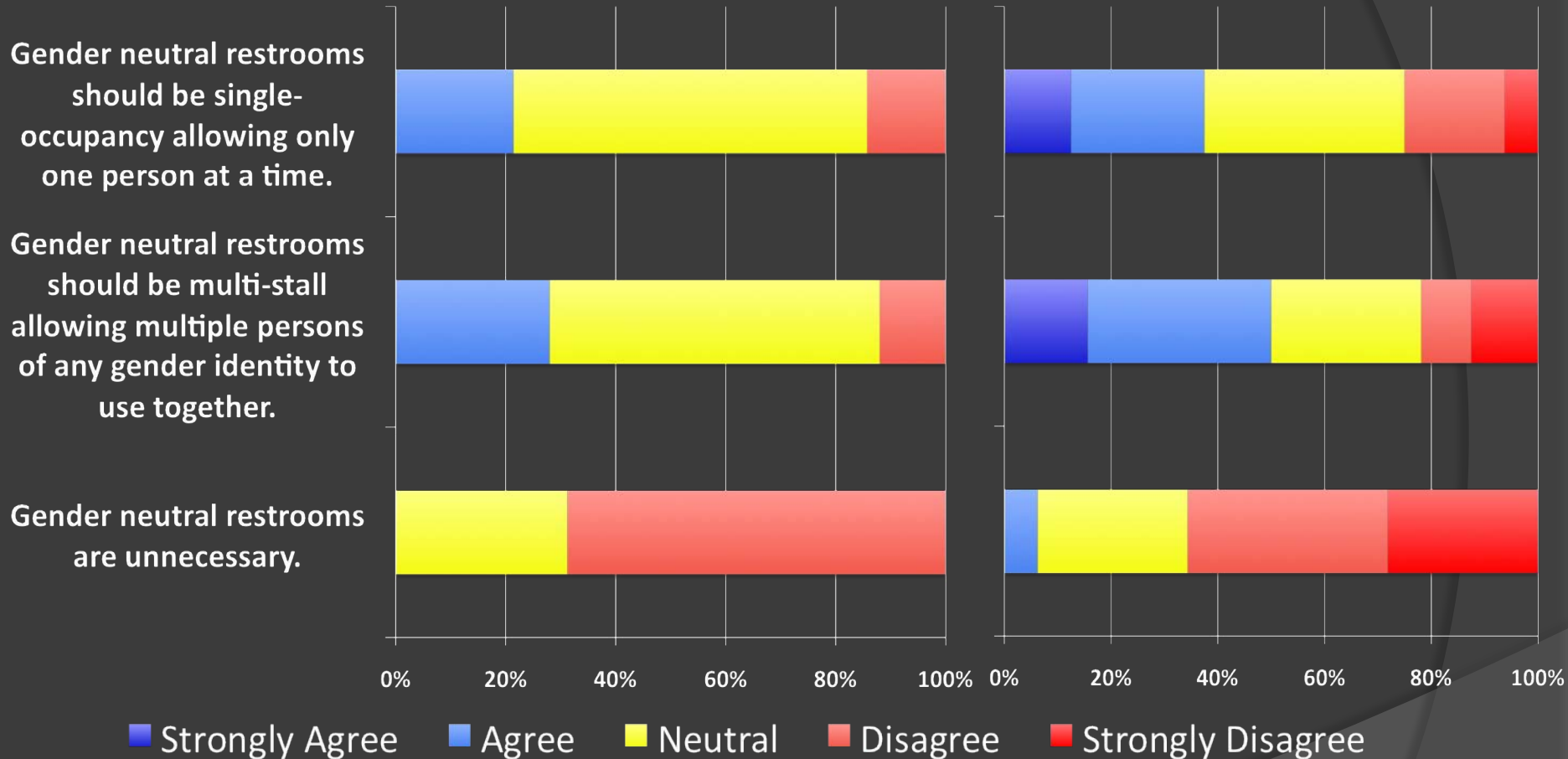


U.S. students agree that transpeople should be able to use restrooms according to their gender yet remain **neutral** about nonbinary individuals and restrooms, while **Japanese students** prefer to remain **neutral altogether**.

Restroom Statements cont.

U.S.

Japan



U.S. and Japanese students remain neutral on gender neutral restroom usage yet agree they are necessary.

University Scenarios

U.S.

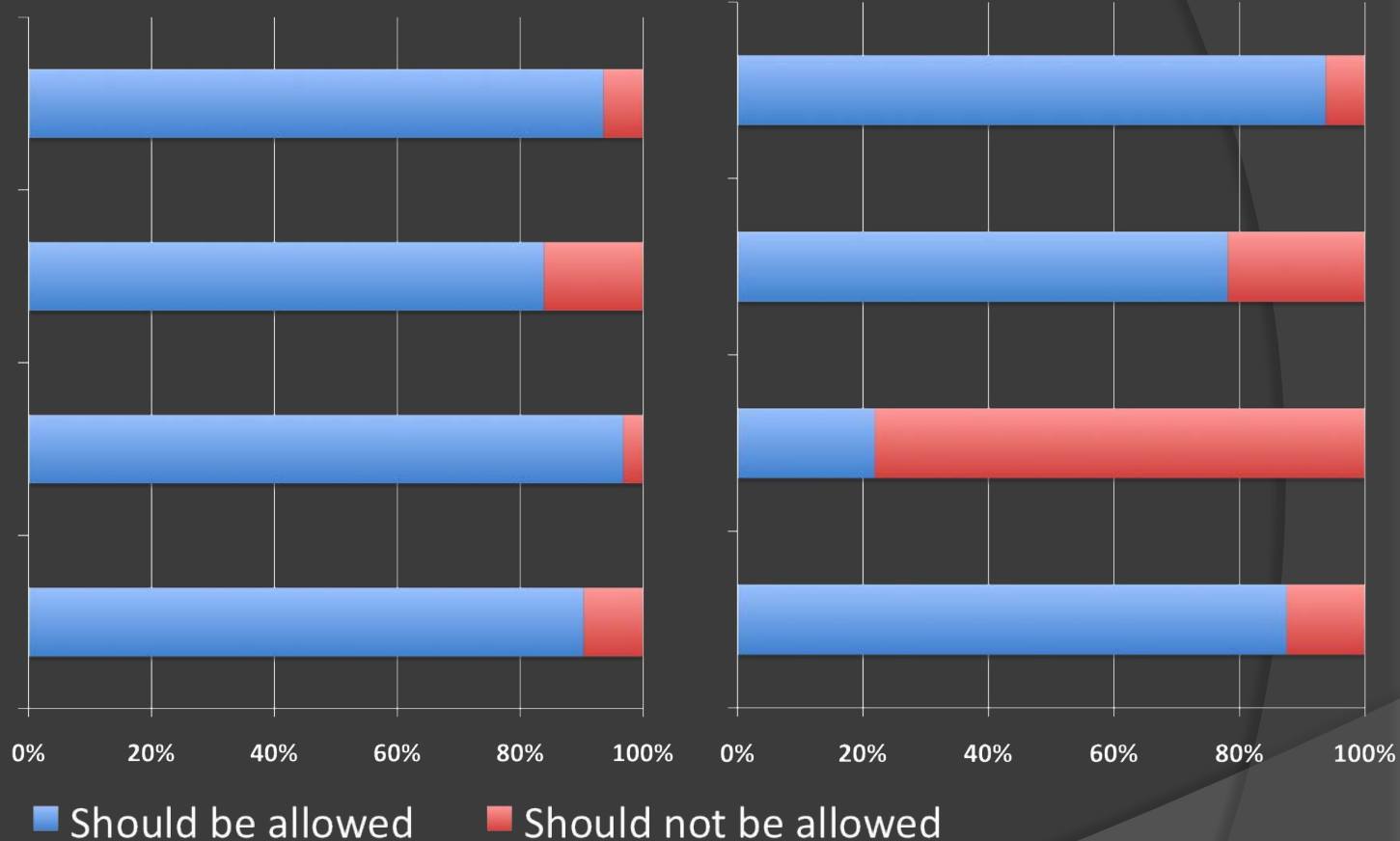
Japan

A transperson wants to join a sports team with the gender they identify with. They...

A transperson wants to use the locker room with the gender they identify with. They...

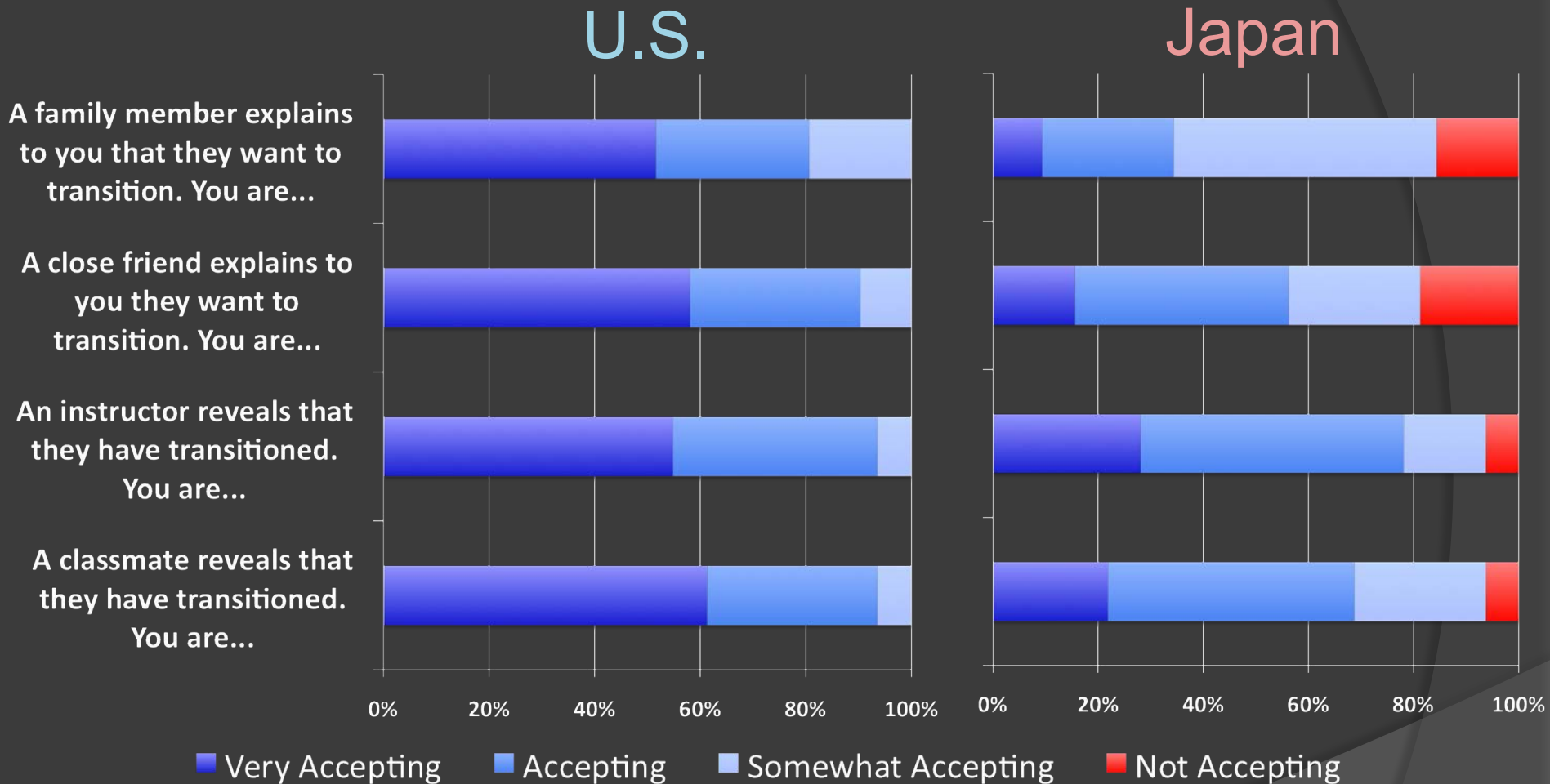
A transperson wants to join a fraternity or sorority according to the gender they associate with. They...

A transperson wants to live in a dorm with the gender they identify with. They...



U.S. and Japanese students mostly agree that transpeople should be allowed to join clubs or activities corresponding to their gender identity.

Personal Life Scenarios



U.S. students are more likely to be **very accepting** of people they know who have transitioned. **Japanese students** are mostly **accepting**.

Pronoun Scenarios

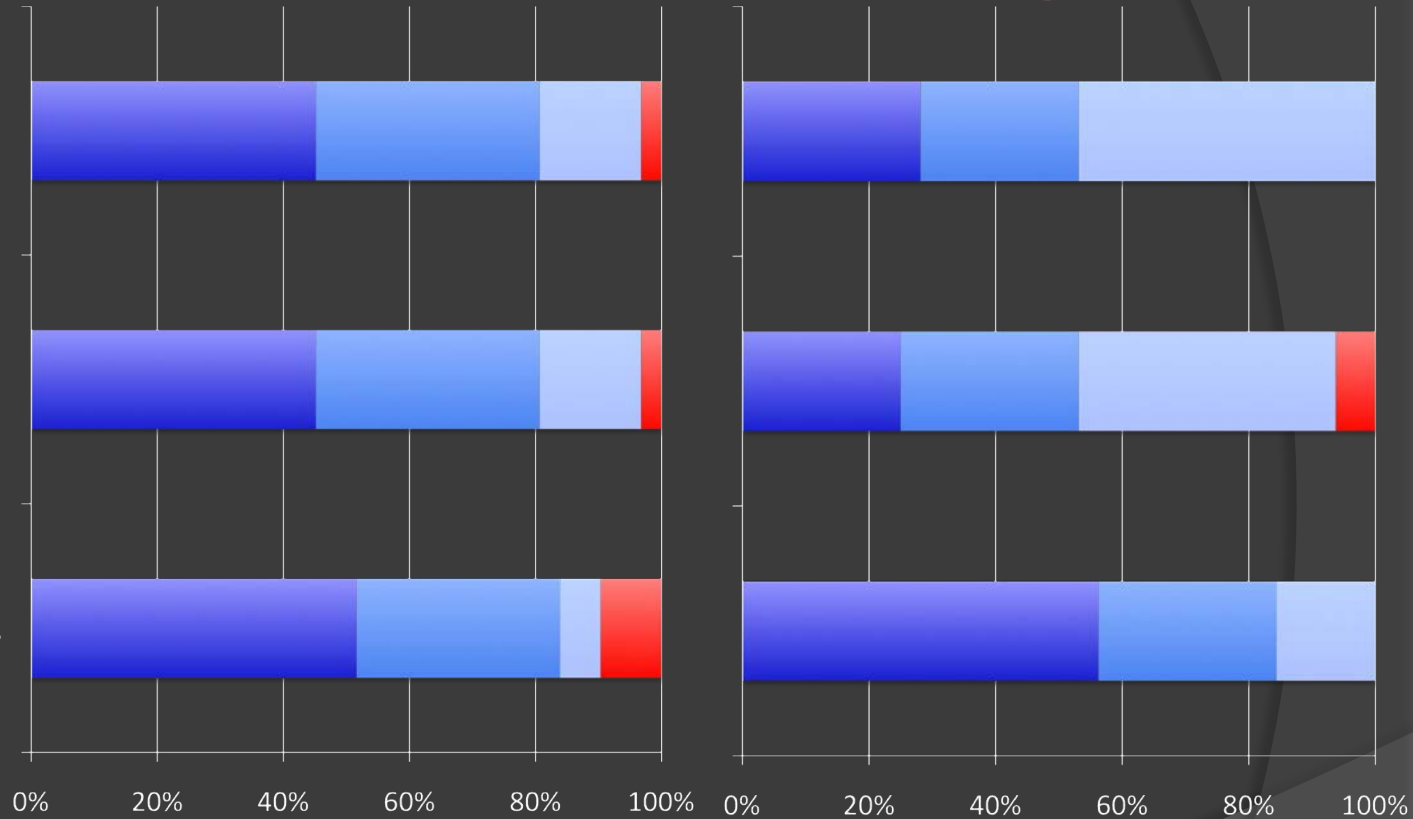
U.S.

Japan

A close (female) friend asks that you refer to them with masculine pronouns (he/him/his) even though they are not ready to physically present as masculine. You are...

A close (male) friend asks that you refer to them with feminine pronouns (she/her/hers) even though they are not ready to physically present as feminine. You are...

A close friend asks that you refer to them with gender neutral pronouns (they/them/theirs). You are...



■ Very Comfortable ■ Comfortable ■ Somewhat Comfortable ■ Not Comfortable

U.S. students are more likely to be **very comfortable** when asked to use pronouns opposite of a close friend's physical presentation. **Japanese students** are **very comfortable** using gender neutral pronouns.

Research Question 1 Findings Summary

Student's Perceptions about Transgender Identities

- ◎ **American students** are more accepting of gender diversity
- ◎ **Japanese students** believe genitalia equals an assigned sex

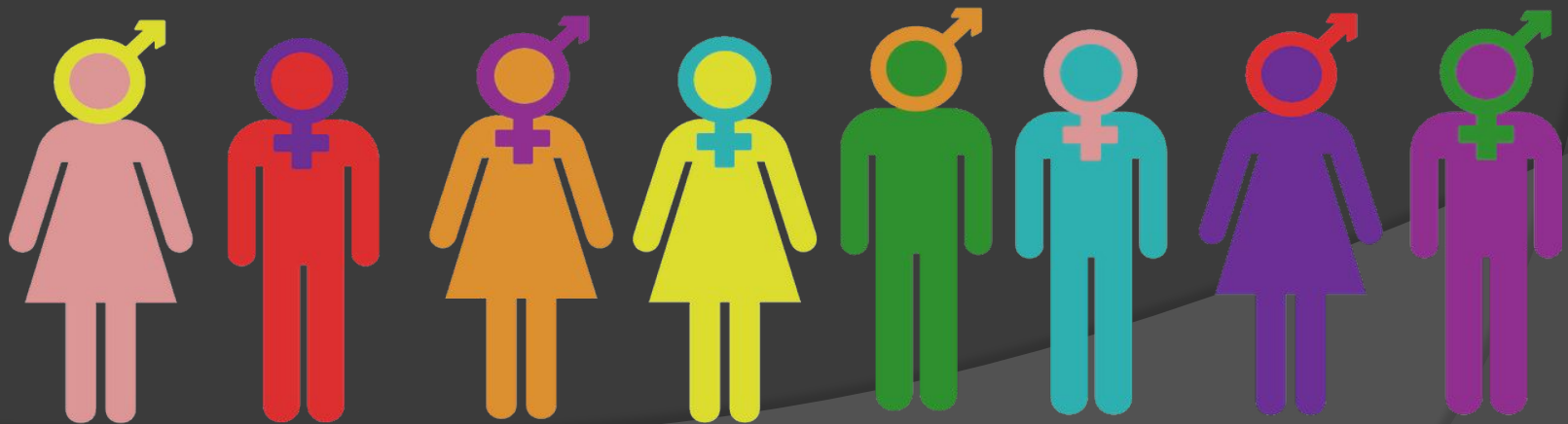
- ◎ **American students** are more likely to be comfortable and open to transgender relations and public inclusion
- ◎ **Japanese students** feel more comfortable with gender neutral identities and public facilities

- ◎ **American** and **Japanese** students are accepting of someone they know who has transitioned, though **Japanese students** find it harder to accept if it's a friend or family member

Research Findings

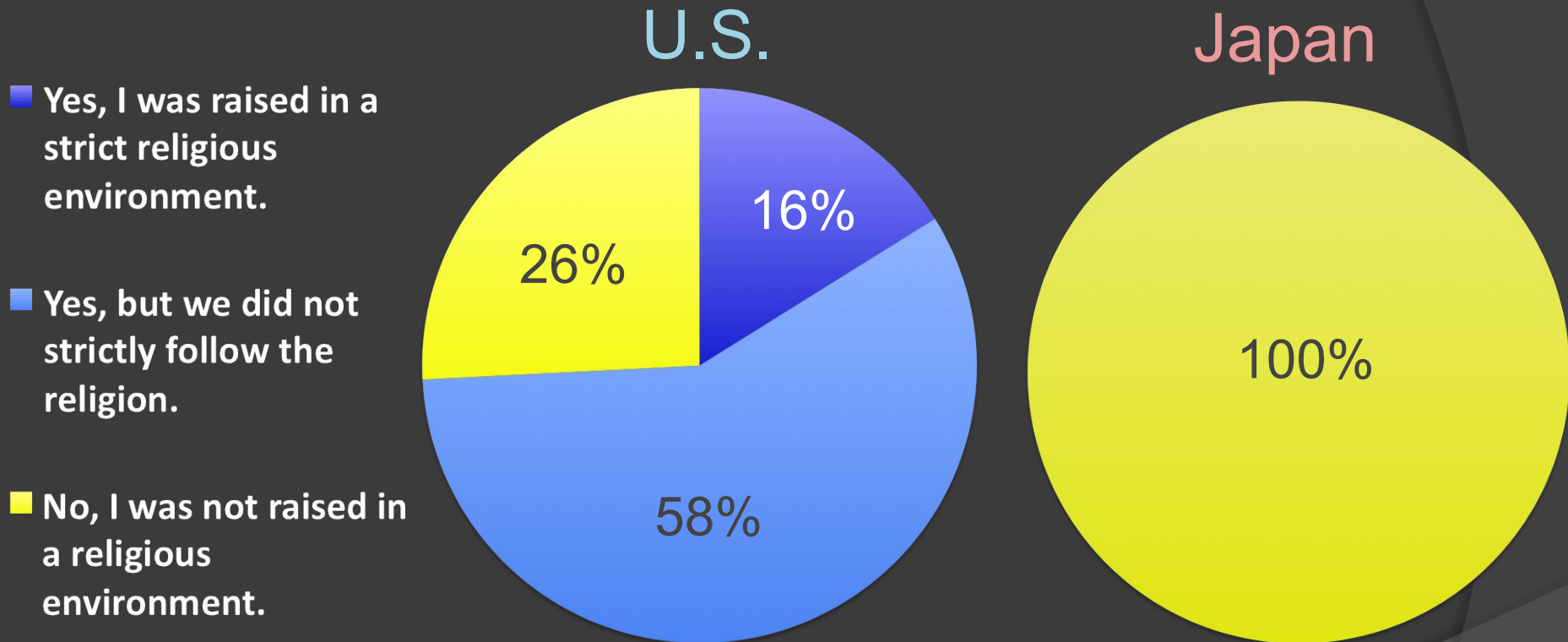
Research Question 2:

What influences these perceptions about transgender identities?



Religion

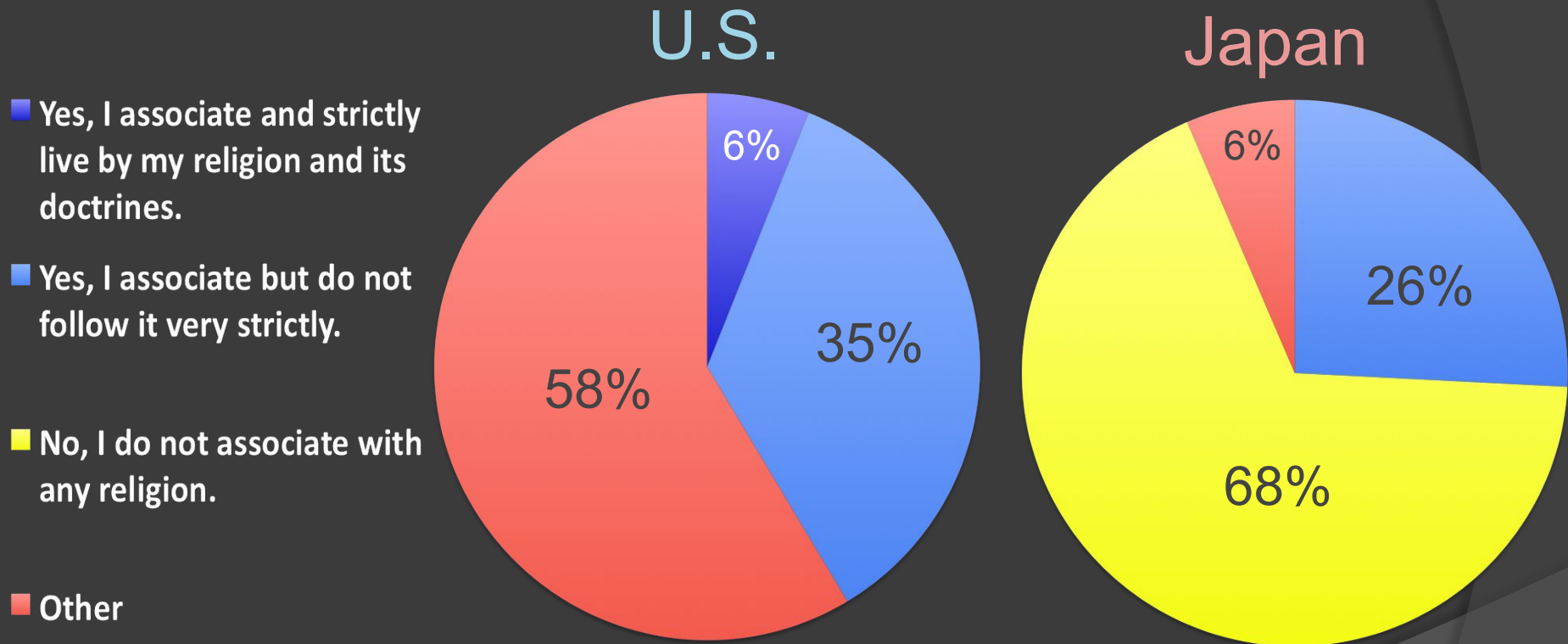
Were you raised in a religious environment?



U.S. students are more likely to have been **raised in a religious environment** yet **did not strictly follow** their religion, while all **Japanese students** claim they were **not raised religiously**.

Religion cont.

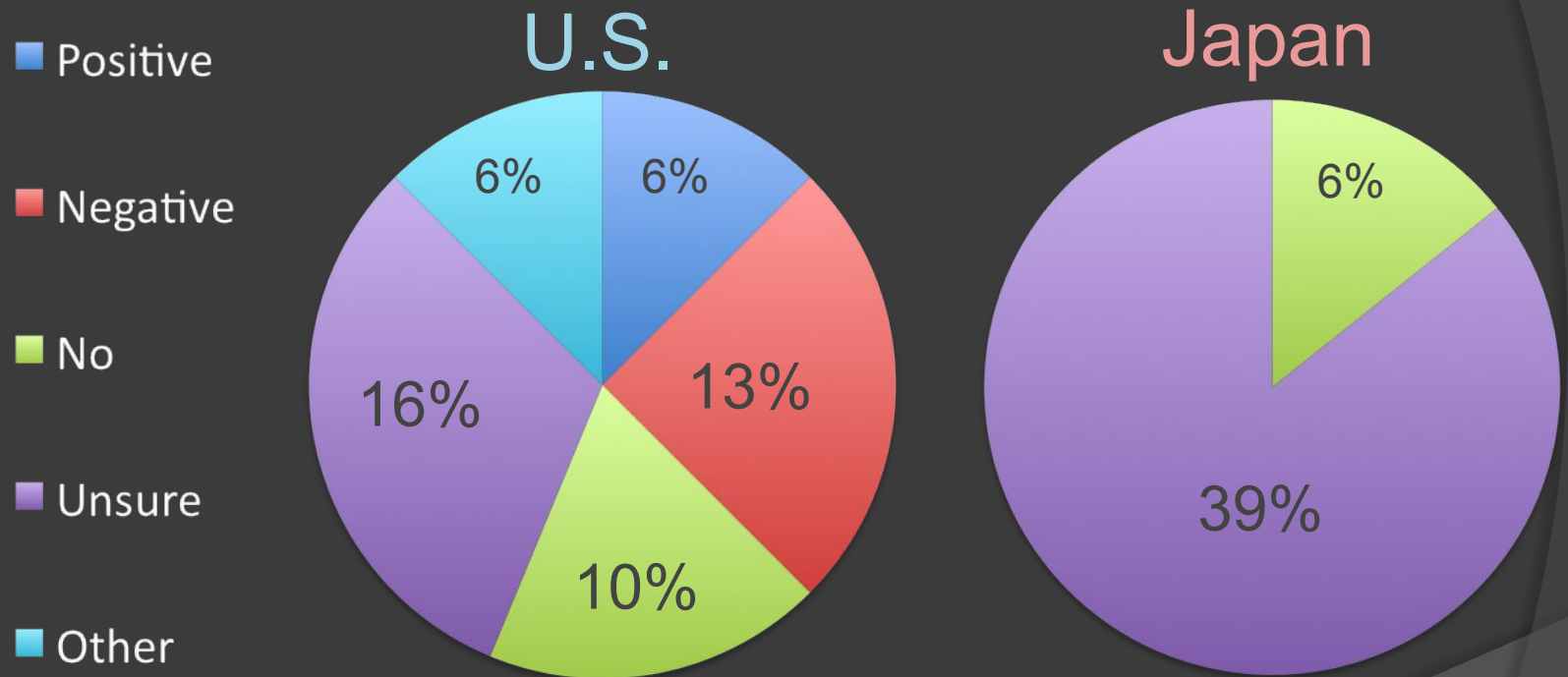
Do you currently associate with a religion?



U.S. students are more likely to associate with a religion but do not follow it very strictly, while the majority of Japanese students do not associate with a religion.

Religion cont.

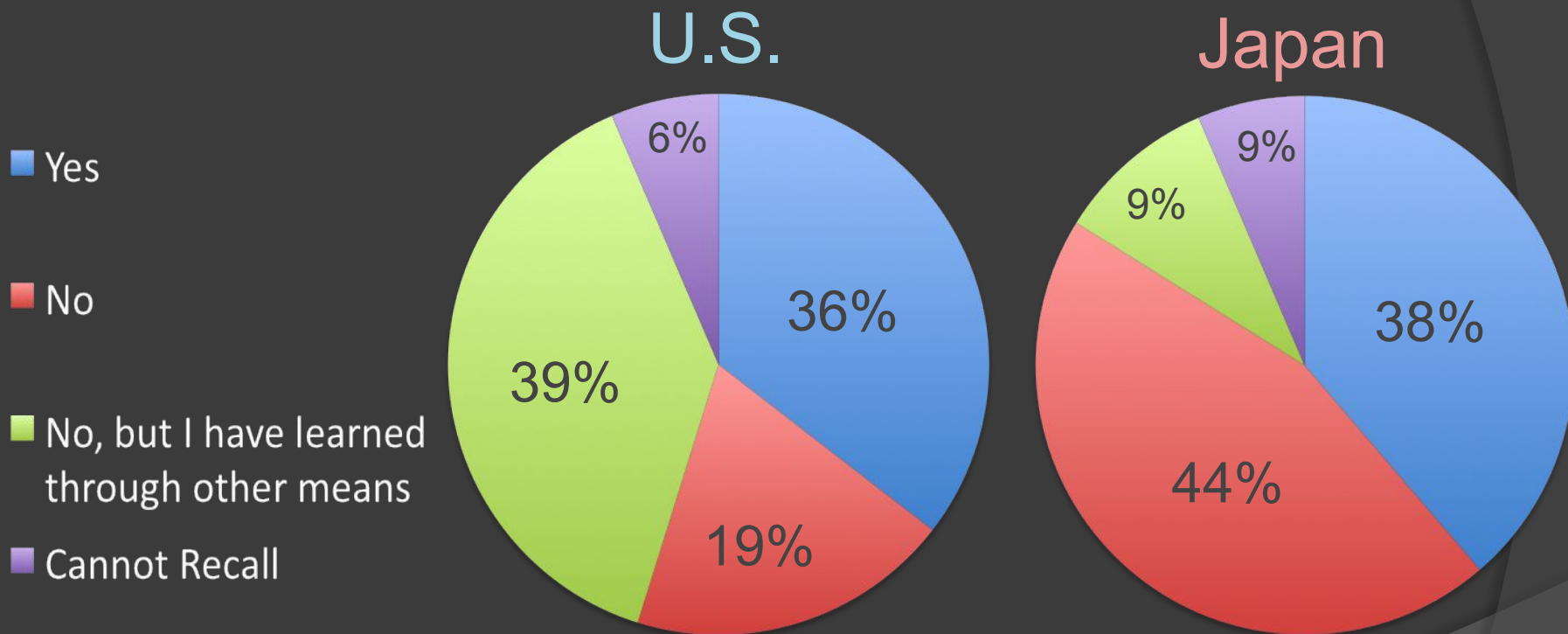
[Of those who answered yes to associating] **Does the religion you associate with have positive or negative doctrines regarding transpeople?**



U.S. and Japanese students are mostly unsure of religious doctrines regarding transpeople. However, there is a high likelihood of negative doctrines in the U.S.

Education

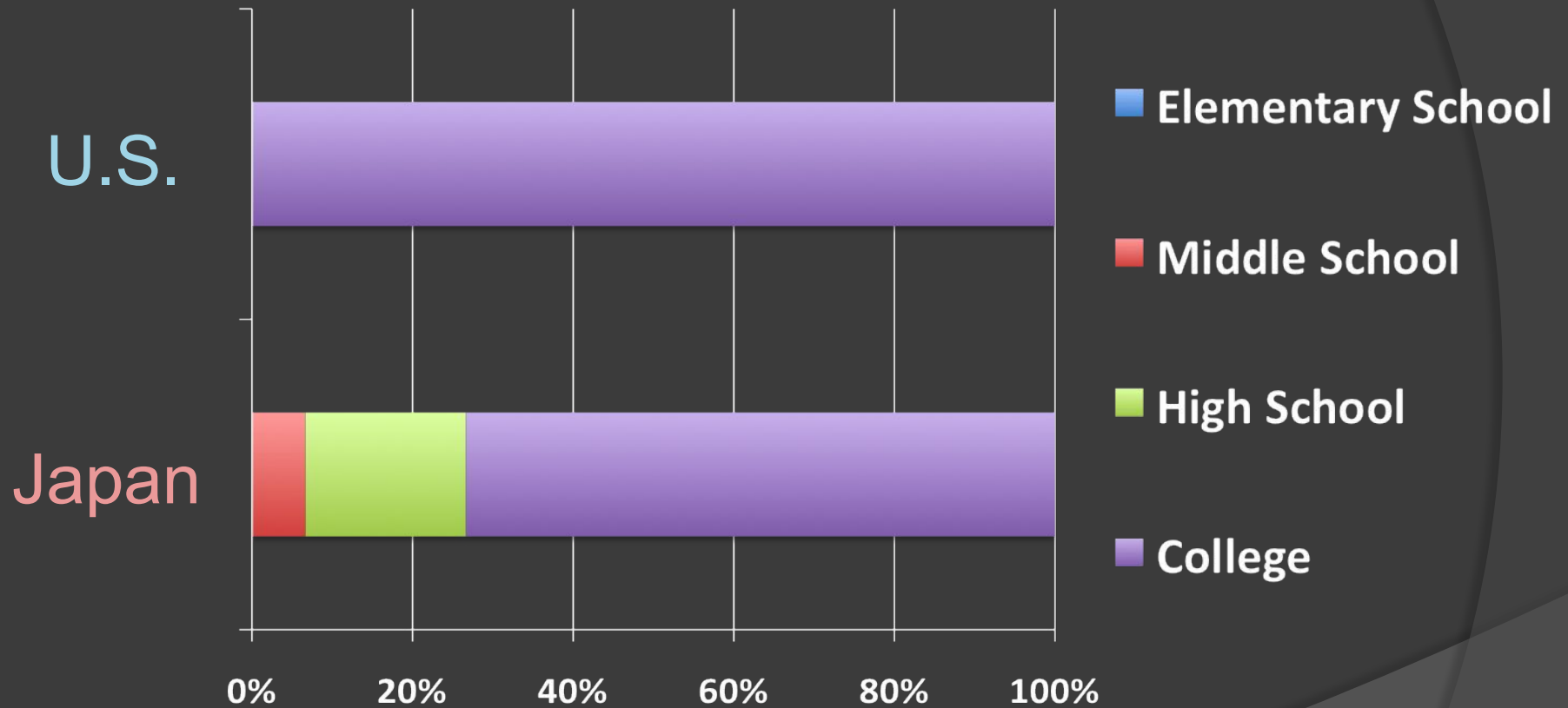
Have you attended a class that included learning about transgenderism in it's curriculum?



Majority of U.S. students have learned about transgenderism outside of the educational system, while the majority of Japanese students have not taken a class.

Education cont.

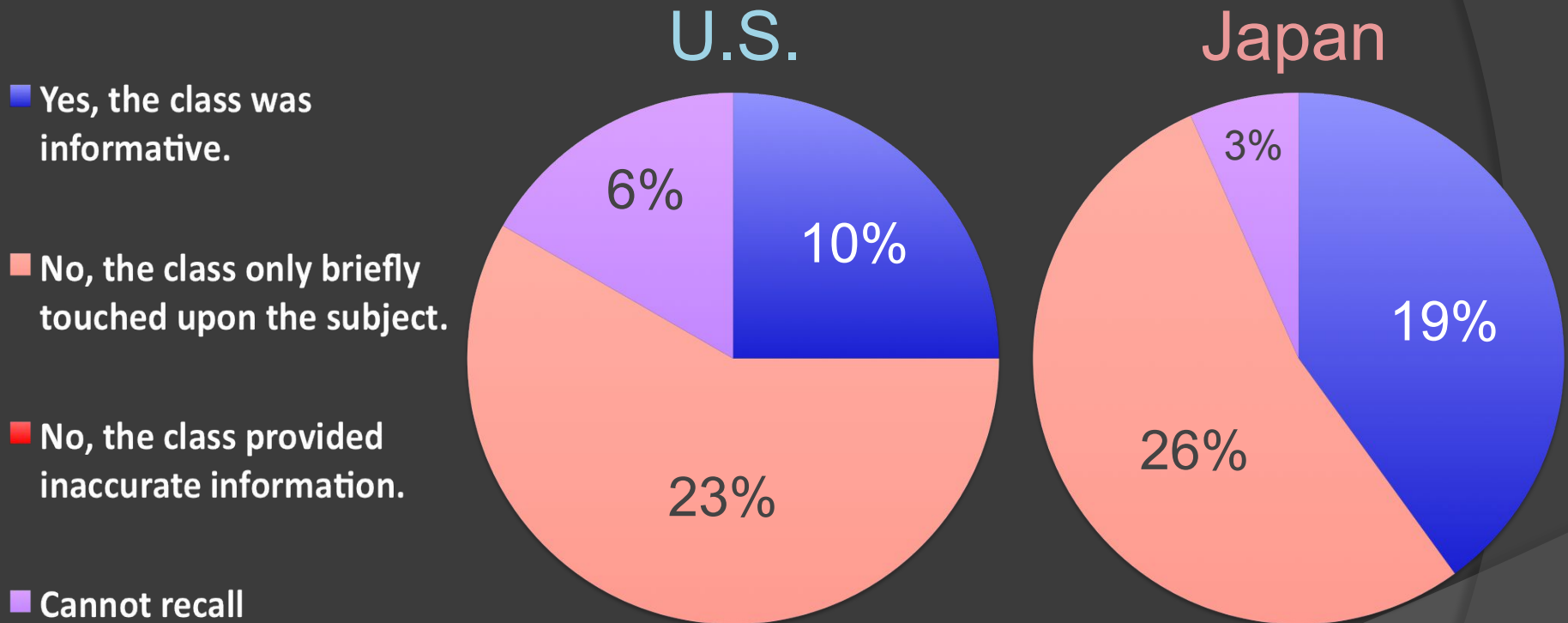
[Of those who took a class] **When did you attend this class?**



The majority of U.S. and Japanese students attended such a class at a college level.

Education cont.

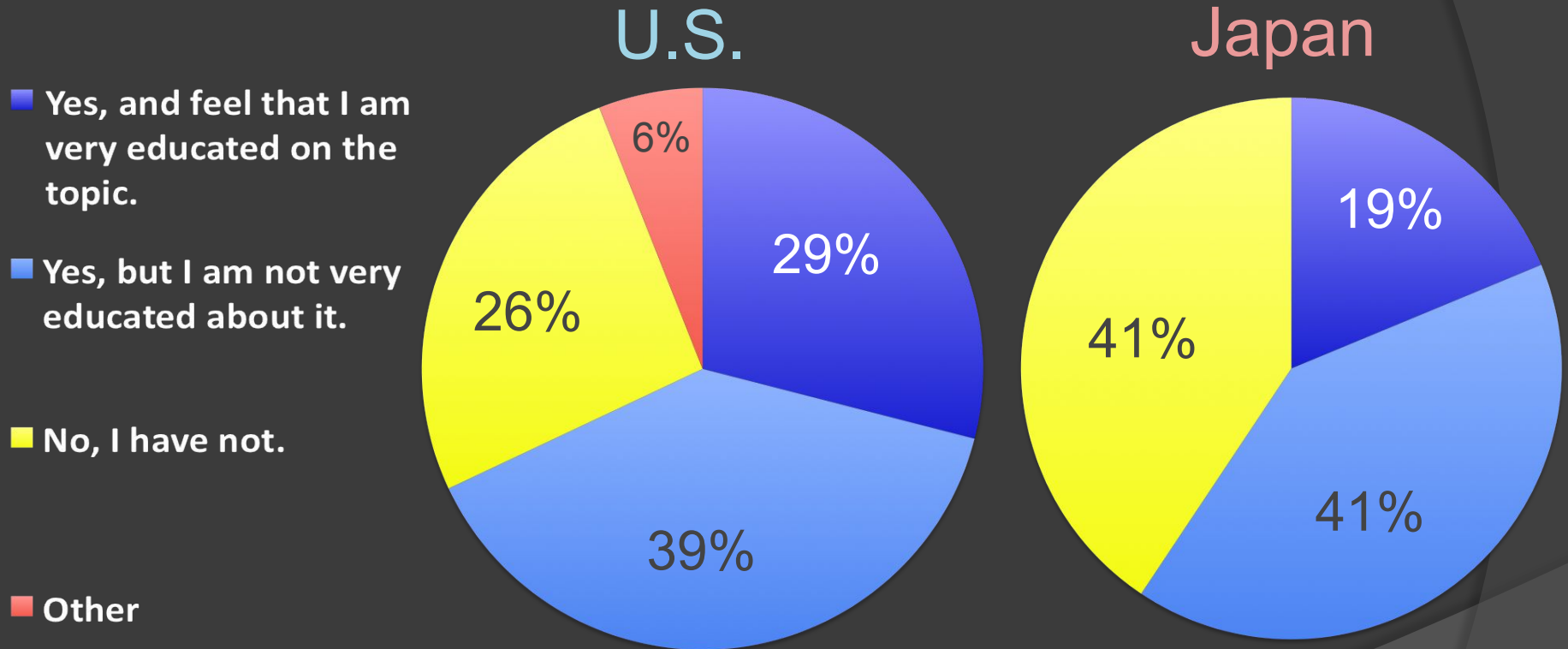
[Of those who took a class] **Do you feel the class helped to clearly educate you about transgenderism?**



The majority of **U.S.** and **Japanese** students felt that the class only **briefly touched upon the subject.**

Education cont.

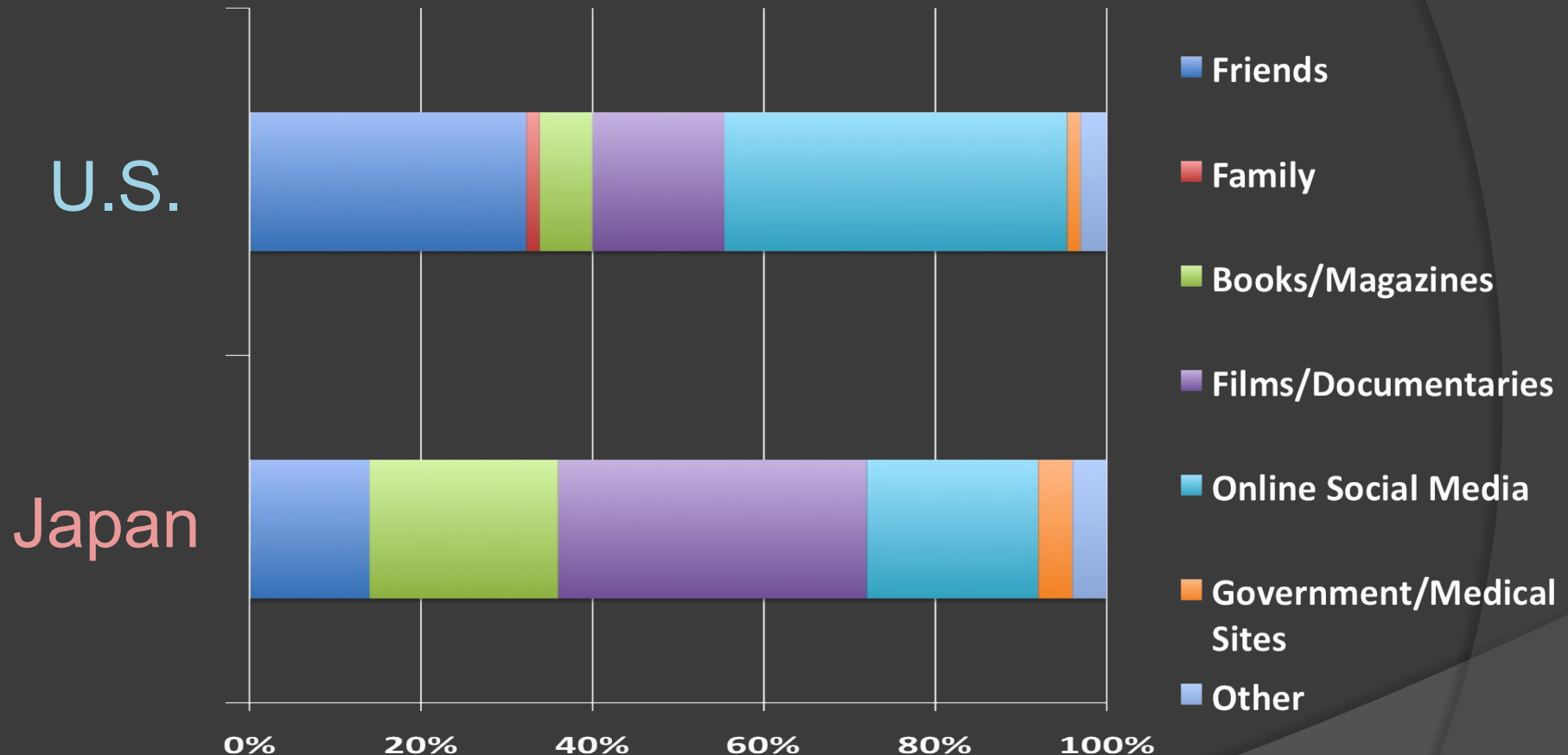
Have you ever taken time on your own to research / learn more about transgenderism?



U.S. and Japanese students mostly report to doing research on their own but feel they are not very educated about transgenderism.

Education cont.

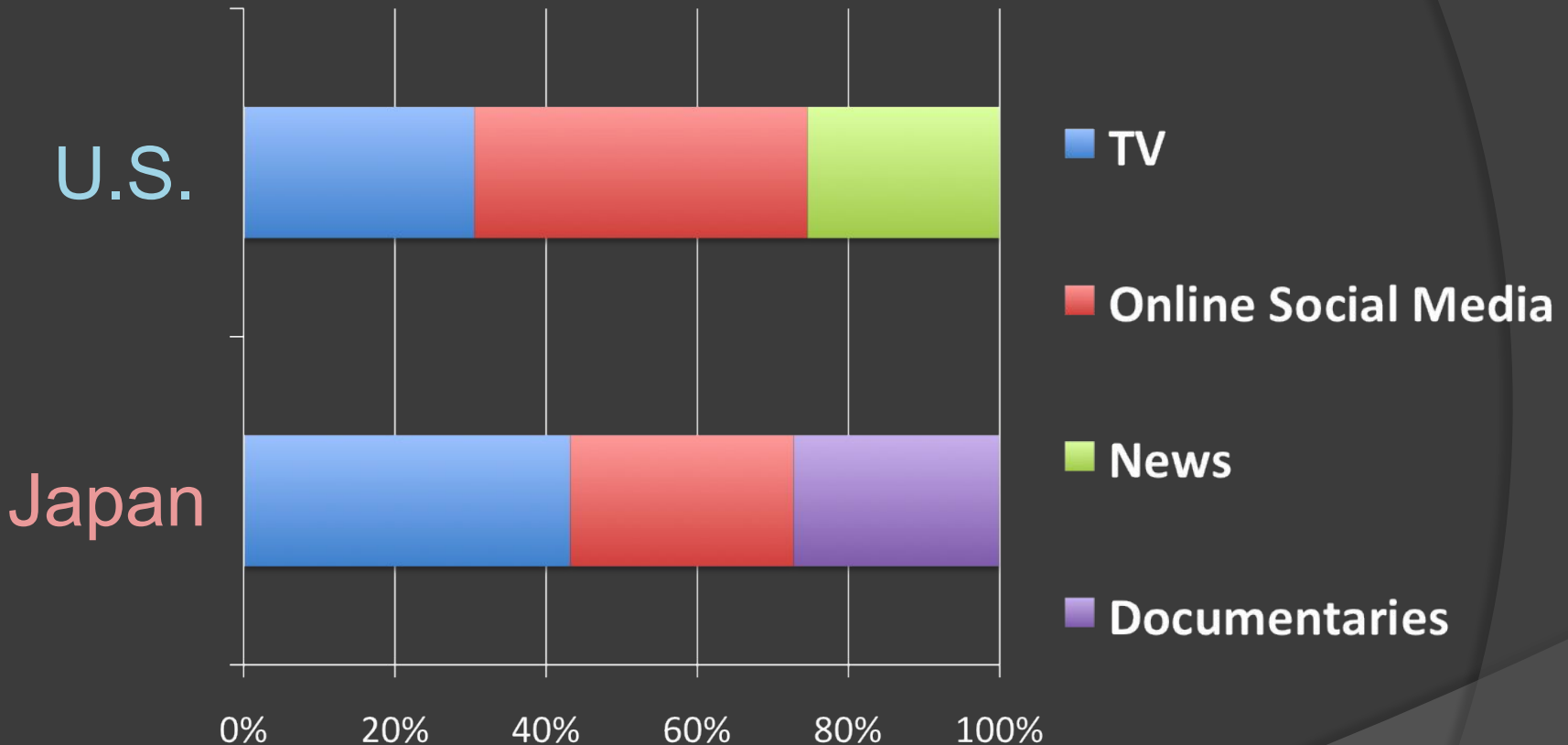
[Of those who have done their own research] **How did you research / learn more about transgenderism?**



U.S. students have mainly learned through online social media and friends, while Japanese students have mainly learned through books/magazines and films/documentaries.

Media

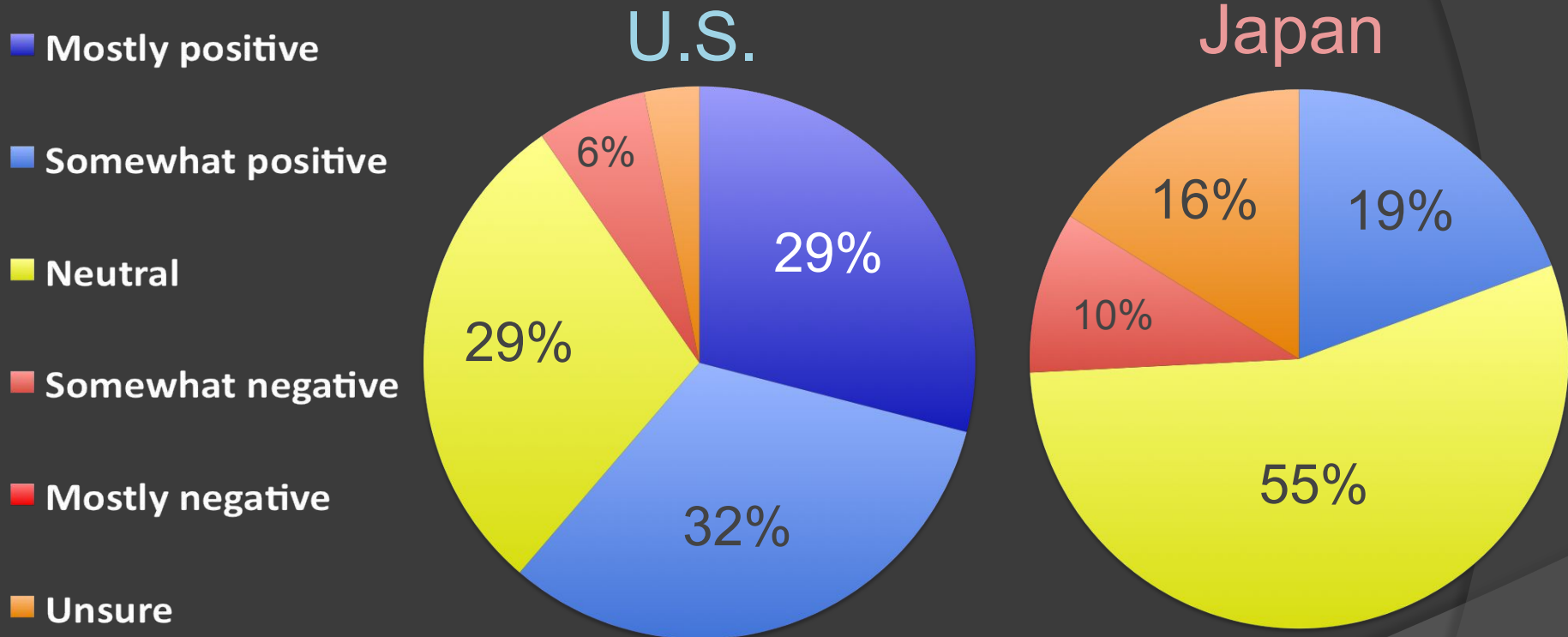
Which of the following top 3 forms of media do you most engage with that discusses transgenderism?



U.S. students mostly engage with transgenderism through online social media, television, and the news. Japanese students mostly engage with it through television, online social media, and documentaries.

Media cont.

Do these forms of media portray transgenderism in a positive or negative way?



U.S. students report that the forms of media they most engage with present transgenderism in a somewhat positive way, whereas Japanese students reported that they are presented in a neutral way.

Research Question 2 Findings Summary

Influences

⦿ Religion:

- **Americans** are more religious with a higher likelihood of negative doctrines
- **Japanese** are not strictly religious and are unaware of doctrine's positions

⦿ Education:

- **Japanese** felt classes are more inclusive and available with LGBT information
- **American students** are more likely to learn outside of school through online social media

⦿ Media:

- In **Japan** transgender identities are portrayed through TV in a neutral light
- **American** media, mainly TV, portrays transgender people positively

Conclusion

- ❖ **American students** are more accepting of gender diversity
 - Larger history of organized rights for LGBT community
 - Individualism culture, freedom of expression, is important
 - Equality in America is working towards inclusion of a multitude of identities
- ❖ **Japanese students** prefer neutrality unless it affects them directly
 - Cultural custom of avoiding confrontational situations
 - Transgenderism is still considered a mental disorder
 - Collectivism culture puts the needs of the group above individuals

Limitations of the Study

- ❖ Majority of **American student** survey respondents from California
 - Does not provide opinions from the U.S. as a whole
 - Californians are much more liberal than other Americans
- ❖ Many **Japanese student** respondents were or are exchange students in America
 - Possibly different results in comparison to Japanese students who have never studied abroad
 - LGBT educational classes could have been taken in the U.S.
- ❖ **Direct translations of specific terms was not always possible**
 - Both languages have words and phrases that are specific to each other and cannot be directly translated

Future Studies

- ❖ Study on a broader range of American and Japanese students
- ❖ When conducting another survey we would like to remove the neutral option to receive more decisive opinions
- ❖ Inclusion of a wider variety of questions regarding gender identities outside of male and female
- ❖ Study a wider variety of religions and their doctrines regarding transgender identities

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Acknowledgments

Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott

Dr. Shigeko Sekine

Survey participants

Translation Assistants:

Yurika Suga

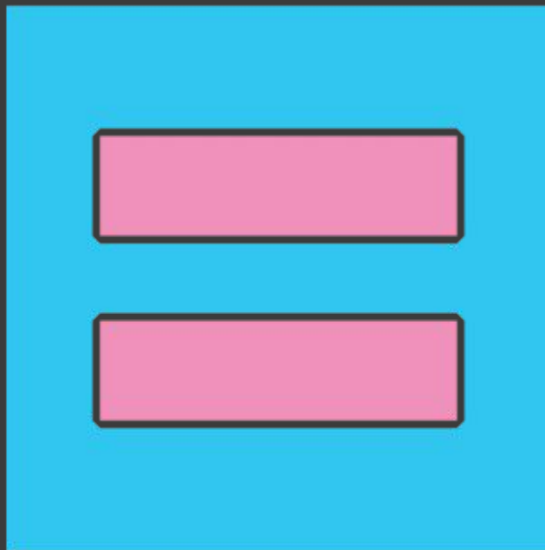
Chiaki Sukegawa

Dai Takahashi

Thank You For Listening

Do you have any questions?

EQUALITY IS FOR



EVERYONE.

Stand up for Trans rights. They're human rights too.



**TRANS IS
BEAUTIFUL**