

NEUTROIS

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From <https://lgbta.wikia.org/wiki/Neutrois>: “Neutrois is a [non-binary](#) gender identity that is associated with having a [neutral](#) or [null](#) gender. It is an umbrella term, with each person experiencing neutrois differently. Common definitions include feeling neutrally gendered- feeling neither [male](#), [female](#), nor anything in between, but still feeling strongly gendered....There is debate on how to pronounce ‘neutrois,’ though the three most common pronunciations include ‘new-twa’ (with a potentially [F]rench throaty cough sound), ‘new-troys’, and ‘new-trohs.’...The word neutrois was coined by a neutrois person named H. A. Burnham, in 1995. The word neutrois is presumably made from a combination of the French word *neutre*, meaning ‘neutral’ or ‘neuter,’ and French *trois*, ‘three,’ as in third gender.”

I first considered entitling this work “Non-Binary” and later changed it to “Neutrois,” both terms being introduced to me the past two years by our incredible 27-year-old Melina Baron-Deutsch, who was “Assigned Female at Birth” (AFAB), and chose “they” as their preferred pronoun.

5/31/21 Atop Sandia Crest, Melina and Michael



A psychologist and commentator in an “Open Mike” column for the New Mexico Psychological Association’s Newsletter, I’ve written of avoiding not only psychological diagnoses but judgments in general of others. But if we **are** to make judgments, as we humans feel compelled to do, I advocated those judgments be made on demonstrable **behaviors** a person shows rather than upon the labels a person chooses. Behaviors such as showing respect, compassion, love, generosity, and fairness seem far more important than one’s purported identity. But by whatever label a person identifies (gender, religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc.), let us show respect for that person. In “Neutrois” I am attempting to lampoon gender and sex stereotypes. The binary “Male-Female,” Blue-Pink, Square/Linear-Circle/Curve stereotypes are just that: oversimplifications and distortions. If we respect *every* individual, if we judge them upon behavior and not label, we may come to accept and respect the “round peg in a square hole” and the “square peg in a round hole.” We can come to more fully accept and indeed *embrace* the diversity of color, shape, and all manner of self-description, knowing we are **all** on this orb but a speck of time, clamoring for happiness, desiring to show love and be loved, and yearning for acceptance and appreciation during our all-too-brief days here. (July 2021)