

Genetics of homosexuality: “Don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t publish”?

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Critics of homosexuals portray it as a “deviant” lifestyle choice and a violation of God’s will. Some religious conservatives argue on behalf of “gay conversions”—a practice that the [California legislature is considering banning](#). The genetic issue first came to prominence in 1991, when [Simon LeVay](#), worker at the Salk Institute in San Deigo, found subtle differences in the post-mortem brains of heterosexual and homosexual young men. Then in 1993, when [Dean Hamer](#) and colleagues at the NIH published a paper in *Science* reporting a genetic association between sexual preference and a specific locus—dubbed the “gay gene”. As an editorial by Howy Jacobs in the *European Molecular Biology Organization* reports, the controversy it stirred has thrown a toxic cloud over genetic research in this area, which it hopes will clear.

Additional Resources:

- [The Making of Me](#), John Barrowman’s award winning 2008 BBC documentary
- [“US researchers find evidence that homosexuality linked to genetics,”](#) Guardian, December 1, 2008.
- [“My so-called ex-gay life,”](#) Gabriel Arana, *The American Prospect*, April 11, 2012