

Ace & Aro Misconceptions

Misconception:

- Ace¹ & aro² people aren't real.
- The "A" in LGBTQIA+ stands for Ally.
- Ace/aro identities aren't LGBTQIA+.
- Being ace/aro is a disorder &/or means you're broken.
- You can't be ace/aro & another sexual/romantic orientation.
- Ace people can't have romantic relationships & vice versa for aro people.
- Asexuality = celibacy.
- People are ace/aro b/c of trauma.
- Ace/aro people are just late bloomers.
- Ace/aro people "don't know until they've tried it."
- Being ace/aro is a phase.

Reality:

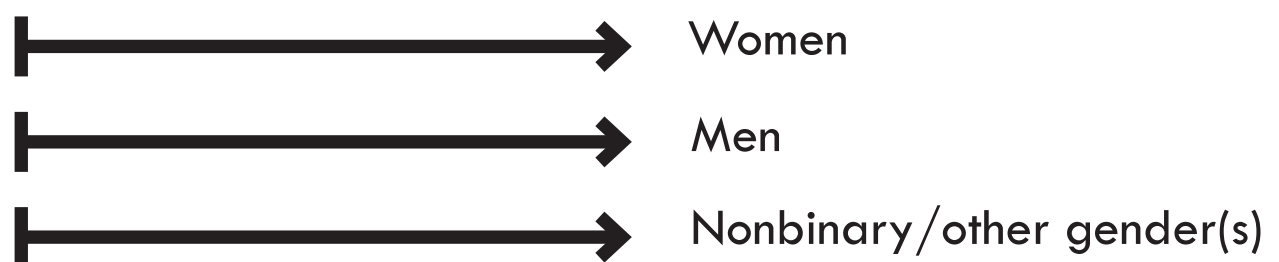
- Ace & aro people are absolutely real.
- The "As" in LGBTQIAA+ stand for Asexual & Aromantic.
- See above point.
- Ace/aro identities are valid, not disorders.
- You can be ace/aro & other sexual/romantic orientations (e.g., asexual homoromantic, bisexual aromantic).
- Ace & aro people can have any type of relationship.
- Asexuality doesn't automatically equal celibacy. Ace people can be celibate, but the two aren't mutually exclusive.
- Trauma can influence ace & aro identities, but that doesn't mean someone is ace/aro solely b/c of trauma.
- Ace/aro identities aren't subjective life stages.
- If you're a straight woman (for example) & haven't tried a romantic &/or sexual relationship w/another woman, how do you know you're straight?
- Being ace/aro (or any other orientation) isn't a phase. Sexual & romantic orientations are fluid, so even if someone's identity changes, that doesn't mean their identity(ies) are/were phases.

1 Asexual

2 Aromantic

Sexual Spectrum

Sexually attracted to:



Degree of sexual attraction:



How to be a good ally to ace & aro people:

- Respect ace & aro identities.
- Do your own research- don't expect your ace & aro friends & family to educate you.
- Avoid generalizations of "everyone wants sex/feels sexual attraction/wants to date/wants to settle down & get married," etc.

Brought to you by AACE (Asexual & Aromantic Community & Education Club) at Smith College

Want to learn more? Check out our website at sophia.smith.edu/aace/

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