

## Gender and relationships

**Guest: Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

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**Jaia Bristow - [00:00:09]**

Hello and welcome back to the Relationship Super Conference. My name is Jaia Bristow, and I'm one of your hosts.

And today I am very, very happy to be joined by Alex Iantaffi.

Welcome, Alex.

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Thank you so much for having me, it's a joy to be here.

**Jaia Bristow**

It's really great to have you on board. I'm so glad you joined us.

So Alex Iantaffi is a family therapist, WPATH certified gender specialist, AASECT certified sex therapist, somatic experiencing practitioner, clinical supervisor and author.

Alex is chair of the Trans and Queer Advocacy Network of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and president elect of the Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Alex is the author of *Gender Trauma: Healing Cultural, Social, and Historical Gendered Trauma*, and co-author of the books *How to Understand Your Gender: A Practical Guide for Exploring Who You Are*, *Life Isn't Binary* and *Hell Yeah Self-Care!* a trauma informed workbook, which I believe you co-authored with Meg-John Barker, who is also a speaker on this conference.

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Absolutely. That is correct. Meg-John Barker is my writing partner. So we write together quite frequently.

**Jaia Bristow**

Wonderful.

Well, that's an excellent bio you have there.

So with all this talk about gender, let's start with why do we need to talk about gender and relationships?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi - [00:01:32]**

Absolutely. What a great question.

Well, I think that one of the reasons we need to talk about gender and relationships is because in dominant culture, and what I mean by that it's the media we consume, so TV shows, movies, songs, the way that the media reports the news, education, all of those kind of aspects. So even healthcare, gender is quite influential.

I mean, even when somebody is pregnant, one of the first questions they ask is, is it a boy or a girl? And so right from when we come into the world there are all these gendered expectations. And so already in the relationship, from parent to child, there is a gendered aspect right from the beginning.

And then there are all these ideas that the world has about gender roles and dynamics and norms. It doesn't take much to realize that those are very influential. Just watching how popular dating shows are right now on Netflix again, right, there seems to be a resurgence of dating shows. And so many dynamics and roles in those shows are very much revolving around gendered ideas and gendered expectations.

And so that's why I think we need to talk about gender in relationship because it influences every aspect of our life, whether it's sibling to sibling, parent to child, romantic and/or sexual partners. I think it's so much like the air that we breathe that sometimes we don't even notice how much gender plays a role in our relationships, if that makes sense.

**Jaia Bristow**

That makes a lot of sense. I think that's a really important topic to address. So before we go into more details, can you tell us a little bit about you, about your gender and why you became interested in this topic?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Absolutely. So I identify as transmasculine and non-binary but far before I found those words to describe myself, I always felt that the idea of gender was fascinating. Even when I was pretty young, like 6 or 7 or 8 on the playground I realized that people perceived me as a boy because I like to have really short hair and wear sweatpants and I was quite adventurous on the playground as a little kid.

And so even though I didn't have the words, I knew there was something really suspect about this idea of gender and that fascination, let's say, never went away. And so I ended up pursuing eventually a PhD in, at the time was actually women studies, now we would say gender studies, but it was really about gender. And my dissertation was focused on gender and disability in education in particular.

And then as I became a therapist, I really noticed how much gender roles and expectations influence family dynamics, especially being a family therapist. That's something that often enters the therapy room.

And then on a more personal level, I was brought up in a household where there was domestic violence. And so experiencing that situation growing up really engendered, let's say, a level of curiosity about gender roles and how this kind of violence is perpetuated.

And of course not that domestic violence cannot be perpetuated by people of all genders, but it is predominantly a gender dynamic in cisnormative relationships. And what I mean by that it's often a dynamic when there is a man and a woman who are cis in a relationship and the most perpetrators of domestic violence tend to be cisgendered men.

So there were certain gendered roles and dynamics that I was really curious about. How is this upheld? How is this perpetuated? How has this impacted me and the way that I connect with others in relationship?

And so I would say that my passion for gender was born really early on and was influenced by all sorts of different factors in my life and continues to be influenced just by how much gender seems to dictate the way we organize our legislation, the way we organize educational environments, health care, public access building, the way we design toilets, for example.

So I find gender to be so pervasive and so fascinating. And then, of course, as a family therapist, I'm really interested in how does that come into play in relationships?

**Jaia Bristow - [00:06:01]**

Amazing.

I'm excited to talk with you more about all those different elements.

I heard you talk about people who are cis and cisgendered. So for listeners who are unfamiliar with those terms, could you just define them?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Oh, absolutely.

So cis, c-i-s, is a prefix that comes from Latin, and it just means on the same side of. So if you are assigned male at birth and you identify as a man that means that your gender assigned at birth and your gender identity align, and so they're on the same side. So cisgender.

And then some folks don't have a gender identity that aligns with their gender assigned at birth. And they may identify in other ways, whether it's trans, non-binary, two-spirit or any other way that might be more culturally relevant to them. But, so when I talk about cisgendered folks, I'm just meaning people whose gender assigned at birth aligns with their current gender identity.

**Jaia Bristow**

Brilliant. Thank you.

And so, let's talk more about, as you say, this gender which is so pervasive in everything, every aspect of life and especially in relationships. So what are some gender roles that come up? What can you tell us about the way gender plays out in relationships?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

I have so many feelings about this. Let's start from this idea that there are ways that men operate that are different from the way women operate, for example. And we see this in popular books that give advice about relationships like, John Gray's book, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*.

**Jaia Bristow**

John Gray, sorry, I was just going to say John Gray is also one of our speakers on this conference.

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Wonderful. Oh, my God. I would love to talk to him about his ideas about gender. Totally open to that dialogue.

And then on Channel Four, I think many years ago because it was before I moved from the U.K. So at least 15 years ago, there was a channel Four TV show that was *Why Men Can't Iron And Women Can't Read Maps*.

And so there are all these assumptions of what men can do and what women can do. And women are naturally nurturing and caring. And men are kind of naturally more aggressive and assertive, and that that dictates the norms of relationships.

Whether it's, for example, in dominant culture, often we see fathers being really possessive of their daughters. There were all these kind of memes and T-shirts going around a few years ago about rules for dating my daughter that were supposed to be from fathers. And that really reinforced this idea almost like ownership the fathers had of girl children.

And in some ways you could say it was all just good fun and of course, fathers are going to feel protective of their daughters. But also, if you look at it from a lens of body sovereignty and autonomy, I'm like, well, why are you also not protective of your boys?

Actually, in terms of research evidence, we know that boys are often exposed to violence much earlier because of this assumption that they will be aggressive and that they will be naturally, in air quotes, "violent". Actually boys are often not protected by their parents and caregivers, whereas there is this idea that girls need to be protected and kept somehow pure as well. And so I think that's the influence of puritanism on parenting. So that's one area which we could talk about for 3 hours, probably about the influence of gender on the way we parent.

And we often take it for granted, as if, of course this is natural. But this is part of cultural norms. And of course, cultural norms are different across the globe and across time. And I know that gender cultural norms I've experienced growing up in the 70s and 80s in Italy, were different from cultural norms that I have encountered around gender when I moved to the U.K. in the mid 90s and are different from gender norms that I'm experiencing in the Midwest in the U.S. in the last 13 years.

So, there are definitely generational differences. There are cultural differences. But we do see the spread of gender run through, and not just in terms of parent child relationship, but also romantic and sexual relationships.

So often people have a lot of ideas around rules around dating. Who's going to ask who out? Is it okay that girls ask boys out or not? In the U.S, there is a whole tradition, I think they're called Sadie Hawkins dances. I don't fully understand it because I've only been here 13 years, but it basically gives permission for girls to ask boys to a dance rather than boys ask girls out like at prom.

And so why does there need to be a whole enshrined tradition in high school for this? It's because traditionally we think the boys should be the initiators.

And then that continues in adult relationships. Often, as a sex therapist, I do deal with clients who talk about who initiates sex. And who is expected to initiate sex if it's a heteronormative. So men and women in a relationship often there can be an expectation that the men will initiate sex.

Or if we are talking about sex, there can be expectations that a man might have a high number of past sexual partners but if a woman has a high number of past sexual partners that's somehow indicative of their morality and it's kind of a blemish in some way before she comes into the relationship. Whereas for a man, that's kind of almost like a point of honor.

And this could go on and on. We know also from research evidence that gender still impacts division of labor in the household. And what I mean by that is who washes the dishes? Who walks the dogs? Who mows the lawn? Who takes care of the children? Who cooks the meals? Who plans the vacation trips? If a family is privileged enough to take vacations, for example.

All these forms of labor are pretty gendered. Who talks to the children about emotional things if there are children in the relationship? Who does the emotional labor of saying, hey, there are issues in our relationship that needs to be talked about and books the therapy appointments. As a family therapist and as a sex therapist, I know that it's prevalently women that book that appointment when they're in relationship with men. It's often wives or girlfriends or mothers who bring their boyfriends, husbands, children into the therapy room because traditionally they're the ones who do the emotional labor of noticing what's happening and making health care appointments.

And so division of labor is very much influenced by gender. There's still sometimes in the news this idea of men feeling emasculated if their wives or girlfriends make more money than they do. So also income disparity. So although overall women tend to make far less money than men, almost on a global level I would say, I would have to look at data from each country, but generally we could say that women get paid less than men by enlarge. And sometimes men still have feelings about this and can feel pretty emasculated by these issues.

And so in this way, gender permeates every aspect of the relationship and also so much so that we're just talking about men and women and this very straight cisgender world. But then if we broaden it out even more, if somebody is exploring their gender, often that is seen as a reason to explore their whole relationship or to put in question the relationship rather than being seen as, this person is growing and exploring another aspect of themselves.

And that's what I mean by gender being so foundational. If somebody questions their gender, you can totally shake the foundation of any relationship. Whether it's a romantic and/or sexual partnership or even a parent child relationship.

And so if gender wasn't so influential, somebody exploring their identity wouldn't be so unsettling for people, if that makes sense.

And so I think that we see this play out in almost every arena. And we see this play out, even in legislation. If we take a moment to talk about the domestic violence and sexual violence, for example, traditionally and in the past, a lot of how this was looked at on legal level was to really put into question the morality of the woman who was experiencing the violence or was assaulted. And of course, there are also male survivors. And, of course, trans and non-binary survivors, and so I really want to honor that.

But even now, we have seen a large Me Too movement that has really highlighted how gendered roles can really impact the way that people relate to each other, not just intimate partnerships, but also in work environments and how gender and gender dynamics and gender roles can really perpetuate certain imbalances of power and can really protect people who keep perpetuating violence and harassment.

And I'm sorry to go down to this path, which is maybe a little bit more activating or upsetting, but I think it's important to look at this from a really broad length and bring that into the conversation as well.

#### **Jaia Bristow - [00:16:16]**

Thank you for bringing that in. I think that's really, really important.

So, as you say, not only does gender permeate every aspect of a relationship and life in general, but it's so invisible. And I think that that's often a lot of the difficulty.

So what do you think is the biggest harm in these invisible and very pervasive gender stereotypes?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi - [00:16:42]**

Absolutely. That's a great question. I think the fact that they are invisible and that we come to think of them almost as, this is the way "nature" works and "nature" in air quotes. There's almost this assumption that, but this is the way men are and this is the way women are. And actually what we know is that the environment is so powerful that it can turn even our genes on and off.

And so there is an interaction between nature and nurture. And we also know that actually at birth there is such a small negligible difference in terms of brains between cisgendered men and cisgendered women. And so actually the environment that really nurtures certain pathways and some of our differences are because of interaction with the environment.

But we tend to think about this is just the way things are, because men are still the hunter gather protector imagery, to more or less of a degree. And there is still this idea that women are nurturing and caring and naturally so and to some degree needs to be protected because that's their role to be nurturing and caring.

And this is, of course an exaggeration and polarizing, but there is a level at which we truly believe that our biology determines the way we think and the way we act. And that idea is called gender essentialism. And I go into more depth in the book but we don't have to get all philosophical and theoretical right now. But I think one thing that's important to highlight is what happens if we actually question, where do these ideas about gender come from?

Because often they're passed on intergenerationally. Our family has certain ideas of gender, we're immersing culture, our culture has certain ideas. When I was growing up in the 70s and 80s, there were even differences between going from Rome, in Italy, where I was brought up, to Sicily to visit my mom's family, which we did multiple times a year.

And in Sicily, there were still expectations around a lady doesn't do that, keep your legs together, don't go walking by yourself with a boy because that puts into question your morality. And that was different than being brought up in a city where there were not the same gender norms.

So even though those gender norms and rules change across time, change between families, change between cultures, they're still influential enough that many of us truly believe that there is a fundamental difference between men and women.

And in reality, I would say that there is a cultural historical difference that often creates misunderstanding, that often creates also unhappiness in relationships. I've seen this happen so many times that people are trying to live up to certain gender roles, and it's really not working for them. And if they can let go of that a little bit then new opportunities open up for the relationship.

And that doesn't mean that they have to question their gender. It just means questioning that we should be and behave a certain way because of our own gender.

So, for example, if you're a man and you do not enjoy sports and you do not enjoy being outdoors and building things or tinkering with plumbing or electric wiring, it doesn't mean that you don't have value in a relationship.

And I think to a certain degree we understand that and we have become a little bit more nuance in the way we think about gender. But in other ways, we still hold on to this idea that there is a fundamental difference, that girls and boys need to be parented differently, that men and women are not coming from the same place when it comes to relationship. And we take that as a given and as an essential part of ourselves, rather than something that's produced and reproduced by culture and history.

## **Jaia Bristow - [00:21:09]**

Amazing. I think that's so important.

And, you know, I can really, as I listen to you speak, I can think about the impact of my own upbringing. I have one sibling who's a brother. And so when I noticed the differences in the ways we were raised and, my parents were quite young and are quite progressive and all of this, and yet I'm constantly noticing within family dynamics and with COVID we've all moved back in together for the first time in over 10 years.

And it's interesting just seeing how we've all evolved but dynamics that are still there and still permeate everyday life. And the way that my father talks to me or my mother versus how he talks to my brother and the way that he responds as well if me and my mom say something to him and the way he responds when my brother says it.

And for me, what I've noticed in the work I do where I lead workshops on power, privilege and prejudice is that often it's, what we've come to talk about sometimes in my family, is the tone reinforcing the dynamic and the dynamic reinforcing the tone.

So because of the gender dynamics in my family, for example, when my dad speaks to me or my mom or speaks to my brother, it's different, the way he speaks is different. But then also, my mum and I might get more reactive because as women we've been spoken to in that way by men for many years and then because we're reactive, he gets defensive. Whereas when my brother says the same thing, etc etc. I won't go into it too much. But I'm just really resonating with what you're saying. And I think it's so important.

## **Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Absolutely. I love those examples because it's not like gender is this mysterious thing that we have to go excavating. It's right there in our everyday dynamics. And it doesn't matter how much we thought about gender, it's still like the air we breathe, those gender stereotypes.

I mean, I've been thinking about gender my whole life. I have a PhD in gender studies. I talk about gender all the time, and my teenage child is calling me on gendered stuff that I do all the time.

Like, for example, when she was an early teen in middle school, she noticed that I reacted differently, she was hanging out with boys than girls. And then she was like, you're doing the thing. And I was like, what thing? The compulsive thing. Oh, the compulsive heteronormativity thing, yes. I'm making assumptions that there would be a romantic and/or sexual interest with boys and not with girls.

And I'm queer, a sex therapist and I'm doing that. And then she was like, I've also noticed that you comment on my appearance more than on my brother's appearance. And I was like, do I do that? And I was like, damn, I do that. I hope I can say damn. I was like, I do that.

And I wanted to make sure that she felt good about her body image. But it was very much gendered. I was making a gendered assumption that as a girl she needed to be boosted in her body image. But also, we pay more attention to the way girls look versus the way boys look often. And even as a parent, I was totally doing that, even though I think about gender all the time.

And she knows that I share those couple of stories, by the way, because I asked for her consent in sharing this. And to illustrate just it doesn't matter how deeply you think about those things. These gender stereotypes just get in and are so sneaky and then just come out without you even noticing it. And thankfully, if we have brought up our children in an environment where they feel they can push back, they'll say, you've taught me about this, and now you're doing it. I'm like, you're right. I am doing that. And I have taught you about that. So I should do better. And I will do better.

And hopefully that reassures people that if you're recognizing that, maybe you're getting caught up in some gender dynamics in your relationship or in your parenting. It's never too late to notice that and do something different and talk about it openly. It's not like we have to be perfect, but we can be more aware and intentional, just like you said in your examples. We can talk about it. We can notice those gender dynamics in our family, and we can approach this together and decide together what do we want to do about this.

**Jaia Bristow - [00:25:34]**

That's brilliant.

And it's so great, I mean, it's great in the sense that you're acknowledging that even you, who has been thinking about gender your whole life since you were a child in the playground and the way people were treating you and you've done studies in this and you teach about this, that even you can fall into those patterns, and that it's okay but it's good to recognize that.

So what opportunities then open up if we do try and let go of these rigid gender roles? What's the positive about trying to open up to more than the rigid gender roles that we might be in?

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Absolutely. I love that question.

I think that the opportunities are infinite. In a way letting go of those rigid gender roles allows us to really get to know people for who they are. And rather than trying to fit them into this box, which may or may not be suitable for them.

And I think it was Carl Rogers who talked about the deep appreciation that he had of people and being in awe of people for who they are without trying to change them. And he talked about, if I'm watching a sunset, I'm not criticizing the sunset, going a little bit more orange there, a little bit more pink, your timing is not quite right sunset. I'm just there and I'm watching the sunset, and I'm in awe of the sunset.

And what would it look like if we could show up for one another in that way? If we could truly appreciate people for who they are and maybe even notice, like, oh, wow this doesn't really fit in into my gendered expectation but it's okay because I just want to know you for who you are. Whether that's your child, your sibling, your parents, your romantic partner, your business partner, sexual partner, whoever we're talking about. If we let go of these rigid gender binaries, then we can really get curious about who are you as a person and who are we together in relationship to one another. Whether it's a family or whether it's a work environment.

And that doesn't mean that we don't have our own gender identities. Often when I talk about gender liberation, people say, oh, are you trying to talk about everybody just be more androgynous or less gendered? Then I'm like nope. I think that people have their own gender identity and it's beautiful and it's to be celebrated.

What I'm talking about is just making more room for all sorts of gender expressions, gender roles, and, yes, even gender identities. And that when we do that, then we have more room for flexibility.

If you are a little boy and you're not into sports and you're into music and ballet and playing with dolls, it doesn't have to necessarily mean anything about your general identity. It may or may not. It might just be that that's what you're into. And it is okay.

There was a musical about it, I think it was the Billy Elliott musical, but gender roles are so rigid that sometimes we put people in those tiny boxes and what if they don't fit? And the reality is that as a family therapist, as a speaker, as an author, as a community organizer, I've seen again and again that a lot of people do not fit into those tiny boxes. And we could say so much more about why, but for now



I think it's enough to say that what if we just look at the person and don't try to put them into a gendered box?

And so if it's a romantic relationship, for example, what if you look at your partner, your husband, your wife and if there is a dynamic that doesn't work rather than just subscribe it to gender, why not become curious and say, hey, I wonder what's at play? And it may be gender and expectations around gender is one of the dynamics that's present. And if so, let's address it. Let's talk about it. Let's really put it on the table and see how that's getting in the way of us having authentic connection.

### **Jaia Bristow - [00:29:54]**

I think that's a really beautiful answer. I love the sunset analogy, and I love the way you talk about putting people in boxes and people not fitting in boxes, because I have a podcast called *Beyond Boxes*, which is an exploration of labels and identity, and which is exactly that, about people who don't fit in boxes. And so I hope to get the opportunity to talk to you a lot more about gender not being in boxes on there some time.

But before we come to an end, I think I have a couple more questions for you. And number one is around gender and sexuality, because you talk about boys who don't like sport, but like ballet, maybe that's got nothing to do with their gender, but often people also make assumptions about their sexuality if it's not about their gender. So maybe you could say a few words about that.

### **Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Absolutely. I would love to talk a little bit about that.

I think that gender and sexuality are two different things, but also they have a relationship to one another. So when people express their gender in a certain way, there might be some assumptions that are made about their sexuality.

And I think one thing that's important to understand is that all these aspects of our being are connected but also distinct at the same time. So gender identity, for example, is a sense of who we are. So, I would say, for example, I'm trans and my partner is a cis man, at least one of my partners.

And then in terms of gender expression, I'm quite feminine in my gender expression. I move my hands a lot, part of that is also cultural for me, being Italian, but sometimes I wear makeup, I like loud prints so it's a more feminine fem, queer masculinity. And that would be my gender expression not my gender identity.

In terms of roles, I'm actually much more traditionally masculine. Even now, I'm more of the "dad" in air quotes. The one who's going out there and making the money and I love spending time with my kid. And also by the time she was like, 7 months old, I was like, I'm going back to work, here you go. And one of my co-parents is a cis man is much more nurturing, caring is the one who's going to make all the meals and take care of you when you're sick. Whereas that's really not, I have a nurturing side, but it's very different from his nurturing side. And so that's kind of the roles and we can fit or not fit into those gender roles.

And then there's also gender experience. So even though I'm more transmasculine, I've experienced a lot of misogyny in my life because I'm usually perceived as being a woman of some sort or a feminine of some sorts. People I think make a lot of different assumptions, I'm perceived a lot of different ways, but there is a perception of femininity, which means I've experienced a lot of misogyny in a lot of different ways across my lifespan. And the way I experienced misogyny at like, 15 is different than now at 50, but it's definitely part of my experience.

And then when it comes to sexuality, our sexuality, again, is just as vast a landscape as our gender. And so maybe somebody is assigned male at birth, identifies as a man, and it's quite feminine in their behavior and expression, and is straight. And yet people might perceive them as gay. And that's

where their experience might be being perceived as gay or queer. But actually their identity is straight.

Or you can have somebody who's like, a man who's really into sports and traditionally perceived as very male, and being super gay. So you can't make assumptions on somebody's sexuality just based on their gender identity expression because it's in a different aspect of us.

And of course, just like gender, sexuality is also vast. There is identity, there is attraction, there's desire, there's behavior, there's experience, again, all those things are different, but that could be like a whole other hour so I'm not going to go into that.

And then the way relationships mapped onto it is also really interesting. And the way we treat relationships and even the way we differentiate between romantic and/or sexual relationships, friendships. Why do we treat certain relationships really different from one another or family relationships? What is the basis on which we treat relationships differently?

And that could also be a whole other topic, and probably Meg-John has talked about that. So I'm pretty sure because I recommend their book *Rewriting The Rules* all the time, which is very much based on this idea of questioning the way we do relationships. Maybe I veered away from your original question, but here we are.

#### **Jaia Bristow - [00:34:50]**

No, that was great. I love the way you differentiate gender identity, gender expression and gender experience. It's kind of, as I was listening to you it was a bit of a revelation for me. I think I have heard those terms before, in fact, I know I've heard those terms before, but the examples you gave and the way you explained them was really, really helpful, at least for me, and I'm sure for a lot of people listening. So thank you so much for that.

We're coming to the end here, Alex, but I'd love to know about any upcoming projects you have and to let people know where they can find out more about you and your work.

#### **Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Of course, I would love to share that.

So upcoming projects, one of them is with Meg-John Barker. We have, *How To Understand Your Sexuality* is coming out in September. We have already co-written *How to Understand Your Gender*, and it's really for people of any gender. It's very much for general audience. Similarly, *How To Understand Your Sexuality* is very much for people of any sexuality and for general audience.

And all of those books, I would say, are older teen and up appropriate.

And then we actually are also going to write, *How To Understand Your Relationships* this year. So I'm very excited about that.

And then I've got some more academic projects on sex and disability which I'm also very excited about.

If people would like to stay in touch with my work, they can go to my website, [alexiantaffi.com](http://alexiantaffi.com)

They can follow me on Twitter, [@XTaffi](https://twitter.com/XTaffi), or [@GenderStories](https://twitter.com/GenderStories)

My podcast is a little bit of hazard in the way it's coming out at the moment because of the pandemic, but I do have episodes that are coming out on an irregular basis, and I hope that people enjoy those.

**Jaia Bristow - [00:36:33]**

Remind us the name of your podcast.

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

*Gender Stories.*

Funnily enough it's all about gender.

**Jaia Bristow**

Wonderful.

Thank you so much for speaking with me today. I really appreciated having you on board, Alex.

**Dr. Alex Iantaffi**

Thank you for making time for speaking with me. It was such a privilege to be part of this conference.