

**Austria has been the country of origin of the harmful medical diagnosis “intersexual constitution”.**

Rooted in **gender stereotypes and racist notions** alike, it **introduced the term intersex to medicine** and was first published by the Austrian gynaecologist Paul Mathes.

It soon became internationally popular with prominent **eugenicists and nazi doctors,** including Fritz Lenz, Hans Naujoks, Lothar Gottlieb Tirala, Robert Stigler, Wilhelm Weibel, Walther Stoeckel, Hans Guggisberg, and kept being used in **medical textbooks** until the 1950s.

**Mathes described the cause for intersex in “miscegenation”,** and already in the 1920s **advocated “surgical correction”,** namely clitoris amputation, “[i]n cases where the intersexual woman was too far removed from the male ideal” (Satzinger).

**Women diagnosed with “intersexual constitution” were described as** “biologically inferior”, prone to mental illnesses (see above “schizoid”), “hypertrophied clitoris”, “most frequent in Jews”, “not fit for marriage”.

**To this day, in Austria there has been no coming to terms** with neither the historic nor the ongoing harmful misrepresentation of healthy intersex children as “inferior”, “deformed”, disordered”, or “degenerated”, **nor with the ongoing mutilations**.

**Sources:**
• Wilhelm Weibel (1944): Lehrbuch der Frauenheilkunde, 7th ed., Berlin/Wien 1944, p. 647 (photo), 648 (text).

• Paul Mathes, Hans Guggisberg (1924): “Die Konstitutionstypen des Weibes, insbesondere der intersexuelle Typus”, in: Josef Halban, Ludwig Seitz: Biologie und Pathologie des Weibes. Bd.3, 1924.

• Helga Satzinger (2009): “Racial Purity, Stable Genes, and Sex Difference. Gender in the Making of Genetic Concepts by Richard Goldschmidt and Fritz Lenz, 1916-1936”, in: Susanne Heim, Carola Sachse, Mark Walker: The Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Science under National Socialism, Cambridge University Press, p. 145-172, at 161-162