SEXUALITY: SIMPLE OR COMPLEX?
Common sense is a complex concept which is difficult to define. It is an inherent sense of what the world sees as right or wrong: it is fundamental knowledge all individuals share. It is an ideology created by, and for, the human race. It is familiarity, and we do not need any evidence to make a statement as people already have an understanding that the statement is factual. However, what is considered common sense in one culture, might not be in a different culture. This can lead to conflicts where certain statements would be taken for granted and seen as perfectly fine and ordinary by a certain group of people, while another group might see it as a problem. These are also arguments used to explain why social change often moves rather slowly, because so many of us are wired not to react or do anything about the things we view as ok or ordinary.

In *The Sociological Imagination* (1959) writer and sociologist Charles Wright Mills explains the concept of the sociological imagination. Mills writes as follows:

“The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals.” *(Mills, 1959 : 5)*

Mills tells us that this ability allows us to make connections between history and biography, it allows us to think of individual experiences in context with what goes on in the rest of the world. He wants us to step back and not always accept the knowledge handed to us. It also takes common sense further by asking us to question these familiarities, because to gain a greater understanding of why the world is as it is, and why certain things happen. Not accepting the norms created by a society, challenging norms could possibly alter the society as we know it, and turn it into something better.

The sociological imagination differs from common sense, in the way that where common sense has created norms, possessing the sociological imagination would allow you to question these norms and try to understand why they exist. We often expect certain types of people to behave in a certain way, it is for example common sense to think that black and white people behave differently. This is a preconceived idea about different human races, we have expectations to how certain people from different racial or ethnic groups will behave, also known as stereotypes. Because of these preconceived ideas, whenever people don’t live up to these expectations we often become rather surprised. Possessing the sociological imagination would, in this setting, allow you to question this preconceived idea: why does it exist; what makes us so surprised when people don’t meet our expectations? By doing so, not taking these ideas for granted, but by exploring them further, we might gain a greater understanding of why we have them in the first place.

Defining our sexuality has in the later years become a rather important part of being human. This makes it easier to separate people into groups and categories based on external and internal features. This separation of people was for a long time determined by the color of our skin, but as