Traditionally, the label of queer has been used to shame its subject while also being linked to accusation and insult. In its definition, queer describes a resistance to a social norm possessing a previously established set of practices. In Latin America, gender is often viewed as intrinsically natural with rigid divisions as to what is feminine and what is masculine. The foundations of what it means to be a man or woman are supported by Christian beliefs and can be seen as sacred. Therefore the word queer already implies something that is wrong, because it does not coincide with what is common. Queer is often linked to homosexuality in Latin America as well, however the true problem that queer individuals face is the definition of their gender and not their sexuality. Men who dress as women are almost always identified as homosexual by society, even when they do not identify themselves as such. Reality in Latin America is quite different from this outdated, binary conception of gender. Defying gender binaries is a practice with a long history all over the world, however the attitude towards these individuals has not changed much. It's becoming more and more clear that gender binaries are outdated but change and awareness are slow. This article essentially describes the opposition that transvestites face in Latin America and the overall inadequacy of gender binaries.

See: Campuzano Giuseppe, 2009 Contemporary Travesti Encounters with Gender and Sexuality in Latin America. Development Vol. 52 Issue 1, p75-83, 9p

The belief that to be a true man one must be overly masculine has been challenged recently by the prevalence of homosexuality. Until recently, Latin American society divided males into two categories: machos and maricones (effeminate men). Traditionally, maricones were used as a reference to show what was abnormal behavior. Their oddity helped define the social norms and expectations of what was considered a man. The emergence of masculine homosexual males in the mainstream culture has challenged this attitude. Masculine homosexuals defy the traditional view and are key to the ever changing definition of men in Latin America. This doesn't really capture the broader meaning of queer.

See: