

Trans and Non-Binary Students Navigating Relationships

The College at Brockport

Lucky Summer Light

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Abstract

This research involves understanding the dynamic and complex ways Trans and Non-binary students navigate relationships. Much research has been done on the positive implications of obtaining diverse students for collegiate logistics with diverse cultural and social identities. However, there is a lack of research that seeks to understand **if** Trans and Non-binary students are thriving on campus so that we can be certain **how** Trans and Non-binary students are doing.

Methodology

This project is conducted by a literature review to better understand the experiences of Trans and Non-binary students in the service of obtaining an understanding on current values and limitations of gender diversity.

Definitions

- ! Compulsory heterogenderism- Neologism used to describe how Trans and Non-binary people's genders are (mis)understood as sexualities.
- ! Gender binary discourse- Term represents a constellation of words, phrases, actions, rules (written and unwritten), and social realities that regulate what are considered to be appropriate gender identities, expressions, and embodiments.

Data

- Trans and Non-binary students have to constantly confront the gender binary discourse alongside being misgendered, constantly (Z Nicolazzo, pp.109-110, 2017).
- Trans and Non-binary students, within interpersonal relationships, have to constantly bring up gender in order to educate others on their experience as a Trans, and / or Non-binary person (Z Nicolazzo, p.110, 2017).
- Trans and Non-binary have to practice resilience and different forms of self-care and self-protection (Z Nicolazzo, p. 110, 2017).

Implications

- ≠ Instability
- ≠ Fear
- ≠ Stress
- ≠ Having to navigate (or accept) being "the other"
- ≠ "Passing"
- ≠ Being Misgendered
- ≠ Hostility
- ≠ Violence
- ≠ Person without a home
- ≠ Lack of social support
- !! ****Resilience****

MISCONCEPTIONS

- Misconception #1- Non-binary people do not exist; (Singh & dickey, p. 27, 2017).
- Misconception #2- Gender non-binary is a new phenomenon (Singh & dickey, p. 28, 2017).
- Misconception #3- Gender non-binary people want special treatment due to asking for "special" restrooms, and gender-neutral pronouns (Singh & dickey, p. 29, 2017).

Research question:
How do Trans and Non-binary students navigate interpersonal relationships within university environments?

Limitations & Conclusions

- First limitation - Not being able to utilize surveys to gather qualitative data.
- Second limitation - Not being able to conduct interview's to gather personal stories and interpersonal experiences to further enhance qualitative research.
- In sum, further qualitative studies with Trans and Non-binary identified students across The States must be conducted in order to access an expanded pool of interpersonal experiences.

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