

The 6th Nordic Trans Studies Network Conference



Organisers:

france rose hartline (Centre for Gender Studies, NTNU)

Luca Tainio (University of Tampere, Finland)

Max van Midde (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Libe García Zarranz (Department of Teacher Education, NTNU)

Special thanks to

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture (NTNU), Centre for Gender Studies (NTNU), GenderHub (NTNU), TransLit Project (NTNU), Literature for Inclusion Initiative (Gulabuddin Sukhanwar, Litteraturhuset, Trondheim), Sápmi Pride, Trondheim Pride, Mangfoldhuset, and all of our lovely participants and volunteers

September 11-13, 2019
Trondheim, Norway

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

18:00 Welcome [Mangfoldhuset](#) (Olav Tryggvasons Gate 40) [*via registration*]

18:00-19:00 Dinner: Vegan Buffet

19:00-21:00 Trans Film and Artwork

Charlie: Introducing the film, *Last Night in Sweden*

Alex Silleras: Introducing the film, *Euphoria*

[Yishay Garbasz](#): Discussing the artwork project, Zoetrope

Thursday, September 12, 2019

8:30-9:00 Coffee & Welcome

(NTNU, Sverres gate 10, floor 1, [A136](#))

9:00-10:00 Keynote

Chair: Max van Midde

Agnes Bolsø (Center for Gender Studies, NTNU)

Bodily Materiality and the Phantasmatic

Coffee Break & Snacks

10:15-12:00 Session 1

Chair: Aira Huttunen

Aleks Gosto (University of Oslo)

The Vicious Circle of Panopticism: Experiences of Trans and Gender Variant Migrants in Norway

Chris Chevallier (Trinity College Dublin)

Understanding and Improving the Lived Experiences of Sexual and Gender Minority Students in Ireland [Skype]

Elena M. Gallardo Nieto (Rovira i Virgili University)

Recovering the T from the LGBTQI. Theoretical and Political Trans Challenges in Europe

Elian E. Jentof (Masters from University of Oslo)

'It Was a Rescue Mission': Discourses of Suffering and Crisis in the Care-seeking Experiences of Gender Variant Youth and their Families

Lukas Kofoed Reimann (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Trans* Kinship – Healing as an Orientation Towards Multitudes

Lunch (Akrinn, Floor 3, [U331](#)) [*for presenters only*]

13:00-14:00 Keynote

(Lysholmbygget, [LY52](#), floor 5)

Chair: Luca Tainio

Wibke Straube (Karlstad University, Sweden)

Trans Natures. Intimacies, Trans Bodies and Pollution in Environmental Art and Film

Coffee Break

14:15-15:45 Session 2

(Lysholmbygget, [LY52](#), floor 5)

Chair: Max van Midde

Aira Huttunen (University of Oulu, Finland)

Embodied cognition and information experiences of transgender people

Silje-Håvard Bolstad (Helsestasjonen for kjønn og seksualitet; Uni. of Oslo)

Gender Self-identifications and Trans Pathways in Norway

Tove Odland (Linköping University)

On the Gender Classification and Measurable Knowledge

Chris Dietz (University of Leeds)

Diagnosing Gender: Acknowledging (Trans) Vulnerability

Coffee Break & Snacks

16:00-17:00 Session 3

Chair: Luca Tainio

Kaarna Tuomenvirta (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Embodied cognition and information experiences of transgender people

Nico Miskow Friborg (University of Stavanger, Norway)

Confronting fantasies of Scandinavian progressiveness and queer utopia – Activism by and for queer women, femmes and trans people in Denmark since 1990

Edwin Fondén (Transammans; Lund University)

Lived Experience – Medical Knowledge

18:00-20:00 Dinner [Mangfoldhuset](#) (Olav Tryggvasons Gate 40) *[via registration]*

Artist Talk & Q/A with [Sophie Labelle](#)

<h2>Friday, September 13, 2019</h2>
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8:30-9:00: Coffee & Welcome [Litteraturhuset](#), Kursrommene (4th floor, Kongens gate 2)

9:00-10:30 [Beyond Binary: The Consequences of Colonisation for Gender & Sexuality](#)

Panel hosted by Sápmi Pride and led by Stine H. Bang Svendsen

Timimie Mäarak (Sámi queer/trans activist and poet)

Amanda Fayant (Cree/Métis artist; MA in indigenous studies)

Max van Midde (trans activist; University of Helsinki)

Stine H. Bang Svendsen (queer activist and Sápmi Pride ally; associate professor in pedagogy, NTNU)

Ronja Vaara (queer Sámi activist, Noereh)

Coffee Break & Snacks

11:00-12:30 Trans & Pride: Inclusion/Exclusion

Panel hosted by Trondheim Pride

Luca Tainio (University of Tampere, Finland)

Luca Dalen Espseth (Foreningen for kjønns- og seksualitetsmangfold, Oslo)

Nico Miskow Friberg (TransAktion; University of Stavanger)

Edwin Fondén (Transammans; Lund University)

Lunch *[for presenters only]*

13:30-14:45 Trans Poethics

Panel hosted by Libe García Zarranz's [*TransLit*](#) project and Gulabuddin Sukhanwar's [*Literature for Inclusion*](#) initiative

Amanda Fayant (Moderator) (UiT/NTNU)

Tine Kempenaers (Ghent University)

Libe García Zarranz (NTNU)

Martina Böll (Masters from University of Bonn, Germany)

14:50-15:10 Sindi Sithole (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)

Becoming Visible: The Lived Experiences of Transgender People in the Midlands area, KwaZulu-Natal

Coffee Break & Snacks

15:30-17:30 Workshop: The Classroom as a Contested Space

Panel hosted by GenderHub (NTNU) and led by Edwin Fondén, Andrea Tock and Jennifer Branlat *[via registration]*

18:00-20:00 Dinner [*Stammen Café*](#) (Kongens gate 55) *[via registration]*

20:00 Performance by local queer choir Kor Hen + Trans trivia!
[via registration]



Conference organized with the support of:

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture (NTNU)

Literature for Inclusion initiative, led by Gulabuddin Sukhanwar (Litteraturhuset, Trondheim)

Project *TransLit: Ethics, Affect, Pedagogy*, led by Libe García Zarranz (NTNU)

GenderHub (NTNU)

Trondheim Pride

Mangfoldhuset, Trondheim

TRANS REALITIES 2019

Thursday, 12.09: Academic paper presentations

9:00 - 10:00 Keynote

Chaired by Max van Midde

Agnes Bolsø: Bodily Materiality and the Phantasmatic

10.15 – 12.00 Session 1

Chaired by Aira Huttunen

1. Aleks Gosto: The Vicious Circle of Panopticism: Experiences of Trans and Gender Variant Migrants in Norway
2. Chris Chevallier [Skype]: Understanding and Improving the Lived Experiences of Sexual and Gender Minority Students in Ireland
3. Elena M. Gallardo Nieto: Recovering the T from the LGTBQI. Theoretical and Political Trans Challenges in Europe
4. Elian E. Jentoft: "It Was a Rescue Mission": Discourses of Suffering and Crisis in the Care-seeking Experiences of Gender Variant Youth and their Families
5. Lukas Kofoed Reimann: Trans* Kinship – Healing as an Orientation Towards Multitudes

13:00 - 14:00 Keynote

Chaired by Luca Tainio

Wibke Straube: Trans Natures. Intimacies, Trans Bodies and Pollution in Environmental Art and Film

14.15 – 15.45 Session 2

Chaired by Max van Midde

1. Aira Huttunen: Embodied cognition and information experiences of transgender people (poster presentation)
2. Silje-Håvard Bolstad: Gender Self-identifications and Trans Pathways in Norway
3. Tove Odland: On the Gender Classification and Measurable Knowledge
4. Chris Dietz: Diagnosing Gender: Acknowledging (Trans) Vulnerability

16.00 – 17.00 Session 3

Chaired by Luca Tainio

1. Nico Miskow Friborg: Confronting fantasies of Scandinavian progressiveness and queer utopia - Activism by and for queer women, femmes and trans people in Denmark since 1990 (poster presentation)
2. Kaarna Tuomenvirta: Trans Temporalities: Collapsing and Separating Timelines
3. Edwin Fondén: Lived Experience – Medical Knowledge

**Link with full programme (including abstracts) available on our Facebook event page:
Trans Realities: The 6th Nordic Trans Studies Network Conf.**

Abstracts + Bios

Gender self-definitions and transition pathways in Norway

Silje-Håvard Bolstad, siljehavard@gmail.com

Introduction & objectives

The presentation is part of the project “Trans Health and Citizenship: International comparisons”. In this project, gender identification is an open question, i.e. verbatim that participants use to define themselves, and the responses were constructed as subgroups categories and used as independent variables. We aim to describe similarities and differences between gender subgroups on key variables related to the transition process.

Method & sample

An online survey with 129 items was administered to individuals with gender incongruence in Norway. A total of 336 respondents provided a qualitative description of their gender identity. These ranged from one-worded descriptions like "man", "trans" or "agender" to more complex descriptions like "non-binary transgirl" or "man, partially genderqueer, and trans". The following categories were constructed: *man*; *woman*; *trans man*; *trans woman*; *non-binary*; *agender*.

Results

Those who identify as *men*, *women* or *trans men* are more likely to apply for a legal gender change than *trans women* and *non-binaries*, while none of the *agenders* have applied. *Men* and *transmen* are more likely to have obtained the F64.0 transsexualism diagnosis, while *women*, *trans women* and *non-binaries* are more likely to have had their assessment cancelled. *Trans men* and *trans women* are as likely as *men* and *women* to be using hormones. Fewer *non-binaries* are using hormones, but more than one-third do. *Transmen* want breast removal as much as *men*, and *transwomen* want breast augmentation as much as *women*. The *non-binaries* and *agenders* are less likely to want breast surgery, but 32-65% of them do. *Men* are more likely than *transmen* to express a wish for genital surgery, while *women* are not more likely than *transwomen*. The *non-binaries* and *agenders* are less likely to want genital surgery, but one-third of them do.

Conclusion & recommendations

Our six empirically validated gender categories can be used both by clinicians, researchers and others to understand and explain the basic differences inside this diverse population. Doing so, discussions on gender issues will be more ethical and valid.

Bio

Silje-Håvard Bolstad works as a specialist in clinical psychology and sexological counsellor at the Oslo health care center for gender and sexuality. Bolstad is also a researcher at the project Gender, health and citizenship at University of Agder. Bolstad is an active participant in transgender organizations in Norway.

Understanding and Improving the Lived Experiences of Sexual and Gender Minority Students in Ireland

Chris Chevallier, chevallc@tcd.ie

The crux of the project will be to disseminate a digital survey to transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming third-level students in the Republic of Ireland, via institutional, student union, and NGO listservs (as well as social media). This will be done to understand their lived experiences, supports, obstacles, and areas where institutions can make improvements, as well as give the community the opportunity to share their voices in a systematic way. This work is lacking and sorely needed to help eradicate transphobia from education while finding best practices for inclusion. The quantitative and qualitative data will be analysed in tandem with the Transgender Equality Network Ireland, the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, and the National LGBTQ Federation before an open workshop is organised to discuss the major results. After insights are gained from the workshop, a policy report will be drafted and made publicly available. Outside of this, the study is also greatly needed to gauge the demographics of the community in the Republic of Ireland.

Before the survey is launched, pilots will be conducted to gain stakeholder feedback and input. These will be used to amend the survey to better fit the needs of the community and phrase the questions in a sensitive manner. An intersectional, geographical, and feminist approach will be taken when analyzing the results. Concerning intersectionality, the community will not be treated as a monolith. Rather, special consideration is paid to the unique experiences of different identities, ages, and transition journeys. Additionally, efforts will be made to understand the challenges that people of color and non-national members of the community face. Concerning geographical approaches, areas where the community is flourishing and, conversely, facing obstacles can be identified. Issues of public safety and how spaces are accessed will also be addressed.

Bio

Dr. Chris Chevallier is an American geographer based at Trinity College Dublin, currently acting as a Project Organiser for an interinstitutional survey on gender and sexual minority students in Ireland. Chris obtained their PhD from Trinity College Dublin, received a MSc in Geography from Stockholm University, and completed their undergraduate career at American University (Washington, DC). Chris's research interest centre around applying GIS and geographical analysis to historical, social, and gender issues.

Diagnosing gender: acknowledging (trans) vulnerability

Chris Dietz, c.p.dietz@leeds.ac.uk

Human rights approaches have become well-established within trans legal studies. After identifying a lack of legal gender recognition across the world, human rights critiques were then effectively mobilised to criticise the pre-conditions for recognition, including compulsory sterilisation. In both instances, the language of human rights was well-suited to critique these laws; illuminating individual trans people whose autonomy was being curtailed to meet the authoritative demands of the state. Alongside these legal literatures, various sociologies of trans health were also being developed; including those which sought to analyse the politics behind the medical regulation of trans bodies. At present, most Council of Europe states offer some form of gender recognition or another. Many, including most Nordic states, have also abolished compulsory sterilisation. In response, legal and sociological literatures have converged in their critique of the treatment of trans phenomena as indicative of a mental disorder, and more recently in their pursuit of a shared objective of establishing a human right to ‘depathologisation’. This paper identifies some latent risks in this strategy. By relying upon theoretically limited conceptions of the body – autonomy, informed consent, and bodily integrity – human rights language could reduce the potential impact of depathologisation. Yet engaging with newer conceptions of the body could offer depathologisation advocates critical insights of practical relevance to their movements. Calling for a stronger dialogue between health law and trans studies, this paper charts some directions of travel for such collaboration – highlighting ideas of relationality, embodied integrity, and vulnerability. Engaging vulnerability theory, as developed by feminist legal theorist Martha Fineman, fits within the aims and scope of this conference by offering a more realistic framing of (trans) bodies. Beyond ontology, it also demands a more considered policy offering from a state which seeks to respond to, rather than withdraw from, the complexity of human embodiment.

Bio

Chris Dietz (he/him) is a cisgender Lecturer in Law & Social Justice at the School of Law, University of Leeds. He researches the regulation of gendered embodiment at the intersection of social theory, trans studies, and health law. Chris has published in *Feminist Legal Studies*, and he has undertaken visiting fellowships at the Center for Gender Studies, University of Copenhagen, the Unit of Gender Studies, Linköping University, the Centre for Gender Studies, Karlstad University.

Lived Experience – Medical Knowledge

Edwin Fondén, edwin.fonden@hotmail.com

This paper reflects on how my lived trans experience relates to professionalized medical knowledge. A specific focus is put on intelligibility and self-determination when it comes to describing your own body. The first part is dedicated to a discussion of minority stress, transphobia and cisnormativity. They are all somehow describing power inequalities among cis-people and people with trans experiences but constructs our analysis of sex/gender and power in very different ways. I criticize both minority stress and transphobia for avoiding to see the bigger picture of how bodies are shaped to become intelligible subjects. From cisnormativity I find a way to express how I view my encounters with the Swedish healthcare system. In the second part I put my focus on contested meanings in relation to the body. The word trans is discussed to highlight the history of pathologization. However, I also acknowledge the power of a common language to talk about our experiences. The dichotomies of the self and the other, the personal and the professional, the creativity of the trans-community and the legitimacy of the scientific knowledge appears as a constant tension. Throughout the paper I highlight emotions and lived experience as valid knowledge by putting it to the front of my argument. By constantly using my own body as example I put to question what is considered to be intelligible within an academic context and where the boundaries should be set between valid knowledge and personal anecdotes.

Bio

I am the chairperson for a Swedish organisation called Transammans (www.transammans.se) working with trans people and important persons around them. At the same time I am enrolled in the interdisciplinary master's programme called Social Studies of Gender at Lund University. My research interests surrounds cisnormativity within higher education and psychology.

Recovering the T from LGTBQI. Theoretical and Political Trans Challenges in Europe

Elena M. Gallardo Nieto, emgallardonieto@gmail.com

Last three years of my research dedication has been focussed on studying socio-political control systems against dissident identities and sexualities. My academic interest in this field comes from a personal and tremendously political commitment to the Transfeminist and LGTBQI activism. After realising my gender identity, I found in research the space for healing my own suffering and for political struggle.

The start of my research career started when studying Trans and Feminist Theories and exploring feminist methodologies in social research. Thus, my BA and MA theses were cases study research in which I collected life stories of trans* adolescents. Through our narratives, I have been able to search in how emotions, feelings and affects articulated forms of violence and resistance configure their/our lives itineraries. The biggest challenge was then an attempt to picture the deepest form of violence found: the internalisation and embodiment of the phobia.

In this line, for my PhD I am studying the process of imposing guilt and hate in educational environments: transphobic bullying. This has become the most undetectable and dangerous form of violence resulting in the numerous cases of suicide of trans* youth in Spain. This becomes global threat in need for a political and scientific response, which has already arrived to all Europe.

Bio

Elena M. Gallardo Nieto, PhD student at Rovira i Virgili University, has a background in Social Work (Granada University/Metropolitan University College of Copenhagen - 2016) as well as an Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies (2018) from Granada University/Utrecht Universities. Currently, Elena is a Predoctoral Researcher developing her research and teaching activity at the Department of Pedagogy within the Doctoral Program in Humanistic Studies.

Lykke, N. (2010). *Feminist Studies. A Guide to Intersectional Theory, Methodology and Writing*. London: Routledge.

The use of the asterik responds to an epistemological concern in the act of naming as an exercise of power, for this I decide to use trans* (with asterisk) in order to refer to transgender identities in a broader meaning, leaving the meaning open. Following:

Halberstam, J. (2018). Trans*: What's in a name? In *Trans*. A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability*. Berkeley: University California Press.

Cover, R. (2012). *Queer Youth Suicide, Culture and Identity*. Farnham & Burlington: Ashgate.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2014). *EU LGTB survey: European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey* (p. 144) [Equality]. Retrieved from European Union website: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-eu-lgbt-survey-main-results_tk3113640enc_1.pdf

The Vicious Circle of Panopticism: Experiences of Trans and Gender Variant Migrants in Norway

Aleks Gosto, aleks.gosto@gmail.com

Even though there is a growing number of research in the transgender field, there is still an existing research gap, especially concerning transgender migrants.

Aim: The aim of this study is to gain better understanding of trans and gender variant migrants' experiences in Norway.

Methods: An interpretative trans phenomenological approach was used to explore the lived experiences of trans and gender variant migrants within the Norwegian context. This study is based on qualitative semi-structured interviews with: eight main participants; five key informants that play an important role within trans-specific healthcare/migration process; and media debates.

Findings: Three preliminary themes have this far been identified: Corporeal Journeys through Liminal Spaces: Migration Trajectories; Trans-specific Healthcare: The Right Body or Nobody; and TransMigration: The Viscous Circle of Panopticism. In the first theme, participants experienced difficulties with the Norwegian Immigration authorities when applying for asylum. Namely, some of the participants were denied asylum because they didn't manage to "convince" the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration that they are a "true migrant". Furthermore, they were placed in unsafe environments at reception centres where they experienced transphobia, violence and discrimination. In the second theme, participants experienced difficulties with accessing the trans-specific healthcare. Obtaining diagnosis is a long-lasting process and it doubles the waiting times for those who had diagnosis from other countries as the diagnosis is not accepted by the Trans Unit which is the only authorised institution within public healthcare to issue the diagnosis in Norway. Trans and gender variant care-seekers who don't manage to "convince" medical team at Trans Unit that they are a "true transsexual", as they don't fit into their gender binary diagnostic criteria, don't get the diagnosis and are thus, left with no public access to gender affirming care. Waiting times and not obtaining diagnosis further leads trans and gender variant migrant care-seekers to navigate the healthcare system and find other alternatives for gender affirming care. Norwegian Immigration authorities and Trans Unit are basing their evaluations on Western understandings of gender identity and expressions rendering some trans and gender variant migrants invisible. What will count as truth depends on their politics of truth which can sometimes lead to rejection of asylum claims and/or access to gender affirming care. The third theme merged from the previous two as a discussion of the viscous circle of the normalizing power and its effects on trans spatiotemporalities.

Bio

Aleks Gosto is a master student at The Institute of Health and Society at University of Oslo where he also finished another master's degree in Special Needs Education with focus on autism. Aleks has a bachelor's degree in Speech and Language Therapy and Rehabilitation in Audiology that he acquired in Bosnia and Herzegovina at University of Tuzla. His research interests focus mostly on trans and migration studies which are motivated from a personal experiences being a trans migrant.

Poster presentation:

Embodied cognition and information experiences of transgender people

Aira Huttunen, Aira.Huttunen@oulu.fi

This paper examines how the concept of embodied cognition can be used to better understand information experiences where an individual's body plays a major role. In this study, focus is on embodied information. This study draws on social constructionism (Foucault 1976) and queer theory (Butler 1990). Additionally, since queer theory pays little attention to the materiality of lived transgender experiences, phenomenological understanding of the body is used to plug this gap (Merleau-Ponty 1945/2012).

The term 'transgender' is used as an umbrella term for diverse gender-variant identities. The data includes 25 semi-structured interviews with Finnish binary and non-binary transgender people. The ages of the interviewees were between 15 and 72. Interviews were analysed with a combination of theoretically and empirically driven content analysis.

Embodiment plays a significant role in transgender people's information experiences in relation to their gender identity. These information experiences involve knowledge derived from emotions, affects and senses. Information about the transgender phenomenon had helped the interviewees understand their own bodily experiences and affects. Gender expression happens in relation to others. Moreover, gender expression is constantly created and shared with others through dress and style. Fear of violence may influence gender expression and thus the ability to share embodied information.

The findings give indication of a process where emotions and affects grew into an information need and, on the other hand, help to understand the information that is relevant for the individual. Norms set rules for social encounters, and binary gender roles are linked to transgender people's experience of gender expression. Our study presents how these norms affect both gender experience and gender expression. In the context of information seeking and the sharing of intimate and personal topics, the concept of embodied cognition deepens the understanding of information as embodied, situational and social.

Bio

Aira Huttunen is a PhD candidate in information studies at University of Oulu, Finland. Her PhD thesis concerns transgender people in Finland and their information practices, including information needs, embodied information, and information barriers. Her first article, 'Transgender information behaviour', was published in Journal of Documentation at 2016.

“It Was a Rescue Mission”: Discourses of Suffering and Crisis in the Care-seeking Experience of Gender Variant Youth and their Families

Elian E. Jentoft, strategyoslo@gmail.com

Based on a qualitative study of the care-seeking experiences of gender variant youth and their parents, this paper examines experiences that lead families to seek interventions like puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy, as well as the meanings they place on these treatments in a Norwegian context. Much literature on the use of early interventions focuses on discourses of crisis and suffering as justification for providing these interventions. Little research has included the voices of those who use these interventions. This study found that participants do describe puberty as a ‘crisis’ warranting swift preventative action and that these experiences inform conceptualizations of gender affirming care as ‘lifesaving’ treatment. Based on participant narratives, along with the theories of Goffman, Bourdieu, Butler, Seligman, and others, I present a three-fold mechanism of social, embodied and psychological suffering to understand some of the experiences that motivate study participants to seek care. Research on gender variant youth has often looked at suffering and its prevention using biomedical interventions. Some authors present suffering as the result of stigma, while others attribute suffering to embodied processes related to the development of secondary sex characteristics at puberty. Much of this writing works from the assumption that suffering is inevitable. I propose that parsing out of potential catalysts for suffering is important, because in some cases, some (or all) forms may be absent. This framework may help provide greater clarity in the thinking on narratives of suffering in gender affirming care, while also challenging beliefs that suffering is inherent. I also consider these narratives by drawing upon recent thinking in anthropology, psychology and gender studies. I would appreciate feedback from attendees on how this framework might be further developed while keeping in mind arguments that too great of an emphasis is placed on discourses of suffering in trans* lives.

Bio

Elian E Jentoft is a queer, non-binary American and recent graduate of the master’s program in International Community Health at the University of Oslo. Their master thesis, entitled “Through the Needle’s Eye: A Qualitative Study of the Experiences of Adolescents with Gender Incongruence and their Families Seeking Gender Affirming Healthcare in Norway” is based on qualitative research comprised of semi-structured interviews, text analysis and community engagement. They have also conducted research on the experiences of transgender parents in a Norwegian context and have experience working with neuroimaging studies in the field of cognitive psychology.

Confronting fantasies of Scandinavian progressiveness and queer utopia - Activism by and for queer women, femmes and trans people in Denmark since 1990

Nico Miskow Friborg, nico.m.friborg@uis.no

Much scholarly attention has been paid to the political agendas of LGBTIAQ+ organizations and their claims for inclusion into hegemonic neoliberal, nationalist, white supremacist and ableist systems of power (Puar 2007, Haritaworn et. al. 2008, Conrad 2014, Haritaworn et. al. 2014). In Scandinavia, homonationalism and the fantasy of progress, exceptionalism, 'gender equality' and 'queer utopia' is specifically strong (Nebeling Petersen et. al. 2017, Ilmonen et. al. 2017, Engebretsen et. al. 2017, Björklund & Dahl 2019) and pushes us to ask critical questions about what kind of equality and utopia, for whom and with which consequences?

This PhD research project builds on such critical scholarship when setting out to map and explore configurations of collective identities and queer belonging, activism, organizing and community-building by and for queer women, femmes and trans people in Denmark from 1990 until now. The project will explore how categories, identities and belonging have been configured and negotiated by queer women, femmes and trans people, and how structures of cisnormativity, whiteness, anti-blackness, class and nationalism have influenced such processes? When struggling to carve out a space for themselves, which aims and strategies were employed by which groups at which times, and how are they linked to both the 'equality' projects and priorities of the nation state and LGBTIAQ+, feminist, antiracist, decolonial movements and other struggles for social justice?

Furthermore, the project aims to unpack the narratives of gender equality and queer utopia in Scandinavian welfare states and through the exploration of the consequences of these for queer and trans activism, the project will investigate and challenge 'the Scandinavian equality paradigm'.

After a short introduction to the project, I will go on to present some initial reflections in relation to creating a community-based project, working with collaborative methods and ensuring project outcomes beyond academia.

Bio

Nico Miskow Friborg is co-founder and member of the board of TransAktion – an organization for and by trans people working with counseling, support- and organizing groups, community-building work, and community-based research, activism and policy work. Nico has a background within Social Anthropology, and they just started as a PhD fellow at the Gender Studies Network at the University of Stavanger.

On the Gender Classification and Measurable Knowledge

Tove Odland, odland@kth.se

The foundation of this presentation is an analysis of the Official Report of the Swedish Government (statlig offentlig utredning) *Transpersoner i Sverige* (SOU 2017:92). In examining the report's positioning of population-management in relation to state practices of gender classification and measurement, I conclude that the necessity of gender classifications is bolstered by presumed needs for measurable knowledge of and about the population. State regulation of gendered subjectivity (e.g. legal gender and gender markers on identity documents) is legitimized through advocacy in the report of adding new (measurable) categories/classifications to administrative systems of population-management. A specific purpose of this analysis is to show how the necessity of state regulation of gendered subjectivity is naturalized through a project aimed at inclusion of trans and intersex people in the care (and control) of the state. It is crucial to problematize how such projects of inclusion lend legitimacy to institutions that, in their utilization of gender classifications for measurements and control, expose trans and intersex people to substantial amounts of insecurity and violence.

Bio

After ten years of studying Applied Mathematics, gaining a PhD from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm in 2015, I started over. In the fall of 2015, I took a course in Gender Studies at Stockholm University and ended up with a master's degree and a MA thesis which studied how intelligibility and measurability are discursively linked in Swedish policy documents. As of September 2019, I am a PhD-student at Tema Genus, Linköping University.
My pronouns: they/them

Trans* kinship - healing as an orientation towards multitudes

Lukas Kofoed Reimann, lukasreimann@posteo.de

What might we learn about what it means to live a trans* life if we pay attention to how we heal together?

Through reading Bear S. Bergman's work on family and community I want to engage with quotidian experiences of becoming trans*. Bergman is an educator, writer and performer, who has published several essay collections on his life as a queer person. Here I am working with *Blood, Marriage, Wine, and Glitter* published in 2013, which is primarily concerned with notions of queer kinship, family constellations and parenthood. In this collection he asks, among other things, why creating queer family can be experienced as healing. I am tracing how the knowledges written into Bergman's texts resonate with Sara Ahmed's work on queer phenomenology and especially her writing on familial and queer orientation. Thereby, looking at how questions of community, kinship, and family are entangled with what it means to live trans* lives. Letting my own experience of trans* family building in Denmark and Germany go into conversation with Bergman's northern American experience. Additionally, I am engaging with questions of hurt and healing through Eva Hayward's work on re-growing as part of trans* orientations. I am asking what this re-growing might consist of for those of us living trans* lives in community with others. I am asking what it means to do family differently and how this difference might enable us to heal, not as a way to overcome moments of hurt and trauma, but as a new orientation toward multitudes.

Bio

Lukas Kofoed Reimann, currently writing his masters thesis in Gender Studies at Humboldt University, Berlin. He is especially interested in questions of the relation between living a trans* life and materialist engagements with gender, body and dis/ability in academia. Further he is interested in writing as a resource for knowledge both inside and outside academia. He has previously published text's on being a transgender student in the university and on queer phenomenological experiences of body in theater.

Trans temporalities: Collapsing and separating timelines

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Trans experiences are often framed through the notion of narratives, a key element of a narrative being that a process or an identity progresses in time. In this paper, I discuss trans temporalities, with the help of theoretical concepts introduced by Ruth Pearce and Alison Kafer. I am interested in how narratives, different experiences of time, and power are related to anticipation time and strategic futures.

I analyse Finnish texts by trans people to suggest that one way of experiencing anticipation time is different planes of temporality, or timelines, collapsing into each other, e.g. experiencing the present and the future simultaneously. This again raises the question of what one anticipates while waiting for a diagnosis from a Gender Identity Clinic: the decision of the doctor, the end of dysphoria, the end of waiting, or perhaps the separation of the different planes of temporality. Thinking with the concept of strategic futures I ask whether the conscious separation of the different planes of temporality could be one way of strategically controlling one's future while under the power of the GIC medical staff. This separation would allow a trans person to separate the present from the future and disturb the power structures in regard to the management of time during the medical trans process.

Bio

Kaarna Tuomenvirta is a student in the Helsinki University Gender Studies Master's Programme. In their master's thesis, they focused on transnormativity in the narratives of trans characters in 21-century Finnish literature. They hope to continue their studies with a PhD, focusing on trans temporalities.