PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

• A Sociological Turn to Trans
• What the Social Sciences Can Offer
• A Flavour of Recent Work (books and journal articles last 2 years)
• Methodologies of Research
• 4 Types of Research and Key Themes Within: Practice, Policy, Theoretical, Cultural (Based Research)
• Anticipating Future Themes
• Conclusions
Over the last 20 years studies of trans within the social sciences have multiplied.

Trans is now a key area within sociological studies of: gender and identity, health care, the body, family and relationship studies, criminology, education, housing, comparative/country specific studies; social movement studies, and sexuality studies.

Increasingly work is interdisciplinary- drawing on sociology, gender studies, law, policy, health studies, politics, cultural and media studies
WHY IS THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPORTANT?

• Employs qualitative methods to explore the experiences of trans people themselves – for example, of coming out to family members, of health care, legal, and medical systems, or of social discrimination

• Links individual experience to social structures – for example, to legal frameworks of recognition, or position in the labour market

• Enables the articulation of a diversity of trans identities and subjectivities – for example, non-binary
WHY IS THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPORTANT?

- Enables the analysis of **power dynamics and relations**—between, for example, the doctor and ‘patient’, cultural producers (the media) and those represented, or the parents and the young person
- Allows consideration of the greater distribution of power and better/best **guidelines** for practice, law and policy
- Accounts for **intersectional factors** – for example, of race, class, age and bodily ability
- Is able to be interdisciplinary – for example, looking at culture alongside the social, or the social alongside the legal
Examples of **books** published on trans within the social sciences
*over last 2 years*
GOOGLE SCHOLAR JOURNAL ARTICLE SEARCH:
‘TRANSGENDER + SOCIODEMOGRAPHY’ PERIOD: 2017-2019
14,000 RESULTS

• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Media: Key Narratives, Future Directions; JA Rodriguez - Sociology

• Displaying Gender: Transgender People's Strategies in Everyday Life; AC Marques - Symbolic Interaction

• I am I”: Self-constructed Transgender Identities in Internet-Mediated Forum Communication, L Webster- International Journal of the Sociology of Language

• Following the Divine: An Ethnographic Study of Structural Violence among Transgender Jogappas in South India, S Dutta, S Khan, R Lorway - Culture, Health & Sexuality

• Transgender and Queer Experiences of Homelessness and Identity: Insecurity and Home (o) normativity, P Matthews, C Poyner, R Kjellgren, International Journal of Housing Policy
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

• Interviews
• Focus Groups
• Surveys
• Ethnography
• Creative and Visual Methods (diaries, art productions)
• Cultural and Archival Analysis
• Policy Analysis
TYPES OF RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES—THOUGH MUCH OVERLAP
Experiences of discrimination within social systems/structures: health care; families and relationships; education; prison; sports; housing, work

Practices of social discrimination and inequalities

Development of guidelines for better practice
POLICY – FOCUSED RESEARCH

- Trans rights in relation to human rights
- Hate Crime
- Policy and legal shifts in specific countries or comparative studies of rights across countries
- Policy in particular sites: e.g. education; health; prison; workplace
THEORETICALLY – FOCUSED RESEARCH

- The social construction and fluidity of identities and bodies
- Sex as a spectrum
- Intersectionality
CULTURALLY – FOCUSED RESEARCH

- Audience studies: effects of representations
- Production studies: increasing diversity in cultural industries
- Alternative cultural representations and productions: music, zines, film
Introduction: The emergence of ‘trans’

Ruth Pearce
University of Leeds, UK

Deborah Lynn Steinberg
University of Warwick, UK

Igi Moon
University of Roehampton, UK
Special Issue Articles

Axiomatic: Constituting ‘transexuality’ and trans sexualities in medicine 13

J.R. Latham

Response and responsibility: Mainstream media and Lucy Meadows in a post-Leveson context 31

Kat Gupta

Rethinking queer failure: Trans youth embodiments of distress 48

Katrina Roen

‘Boying’ the boy and ‘girling’ the girl: From affective interpellation to trans-emotionality 65

Igi Moon

Genderqueer(ing): ‘On this side of the world against which it protests’ 80

Zowie Davy

De/constructing DIY identities in a trans music scene 97

Ruth Pearce and Kirsty Lohman

Mak nyahs and the dismantling of dehumanisation: Framing empowerment strategies of Malaysian male-to-female transsexuals in the 2000s 114

Joseph N Goh and Thaatchaayini Kananatu
ANTICIPATING FUTURE THEMES/AREAS OF STUDY

- Non-Binary Identities, and Gender and Sexual Fluidity
- De-pathologisation
- Temporality
- Post – colonialism
- Reproduction
- Violence: State and Interpersonal
- Children and Young People
- Disability
- Cultural Productions
Social science work on trans shows no sign of slowing down - e.g. number of PhD applications

Social science work on trans is methodologically varied

Social science work on trans is rich in focus

Social science work on trans is important for considerations of, and policies towards, health care as it brings to light individual experience; practices of discrimination; dynamics of power and their intersecting factors; trans people’s resilience and creativity person; and offers person-centered guidelines