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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

EPATH (2019)

Social Sciences:

A Year in Review

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

THE TURN TO TRANS WITHIN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

- 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?

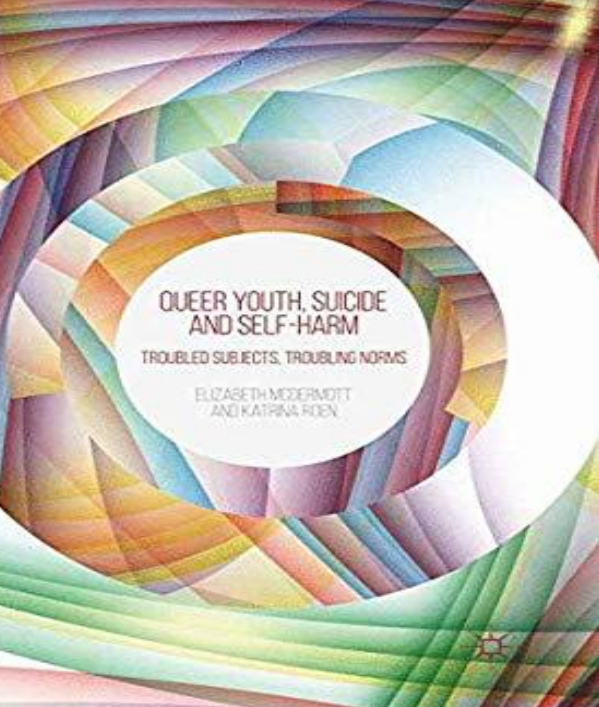
- Employs qualitative methods to explore the **experiences** of trans people themselves – for example, of coming out to family members, of health care, legal, and medical systems, or of social discrimination
- Links individual experience to **social structures** – for example, to legal frameworks of 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

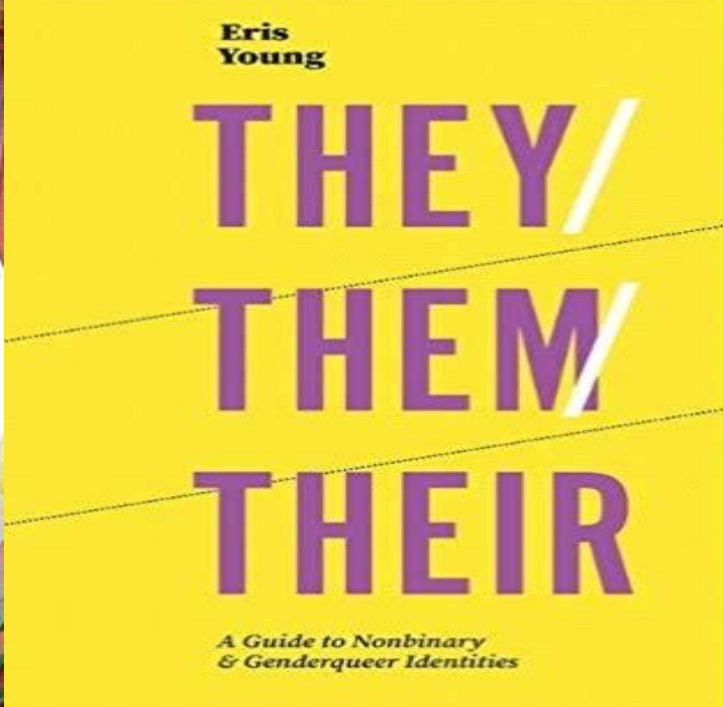
Examples of **books** published
on trans within the social
sciences
over last 2 years





QUEER YOUTH, SUICIDE
AND SELF-HARM
TROUBLED SUBJECTS, TROUBLING NORMS

ELIZABETH MOZERKOTT
AND KATRINA ROEN



Eris
Young

THEY/ THEM/ THEIR

*A Guide to Nonbinary
& Genderqueer Identities*

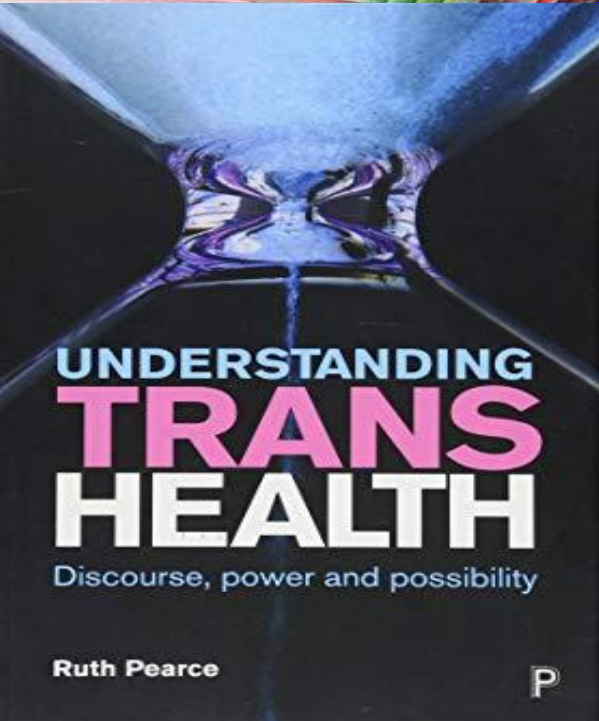
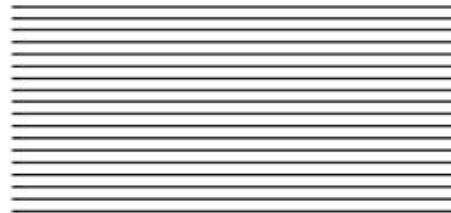


"A much-needed primer for those who are puzzled by contemporary discussions about gender." —The New York Times

UNBOUND

TRANSGENDER MEN
AND THE REMAKING
OF IDENTITY

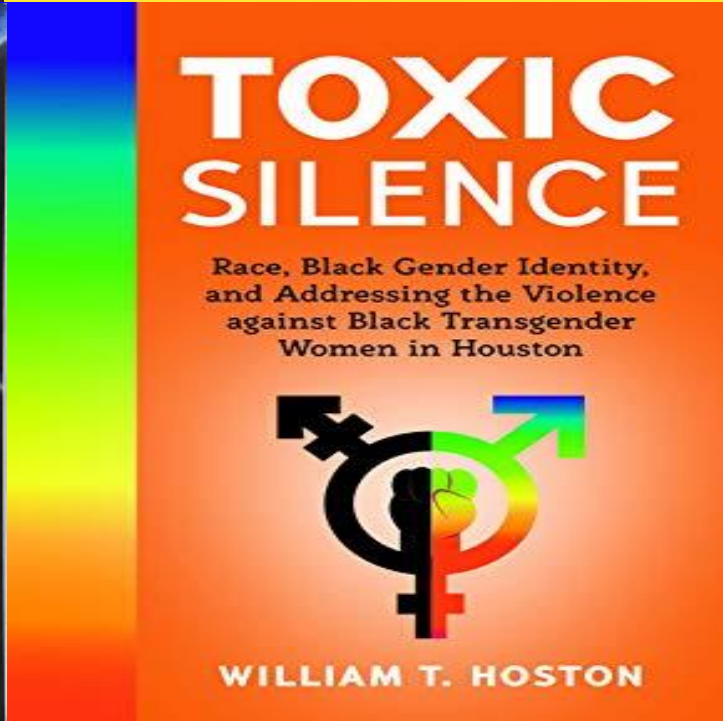
ARLENE STEIN



UNDERSTANDING TRANS HEALTH

Discourse, power and possibility

Ruth Pearce

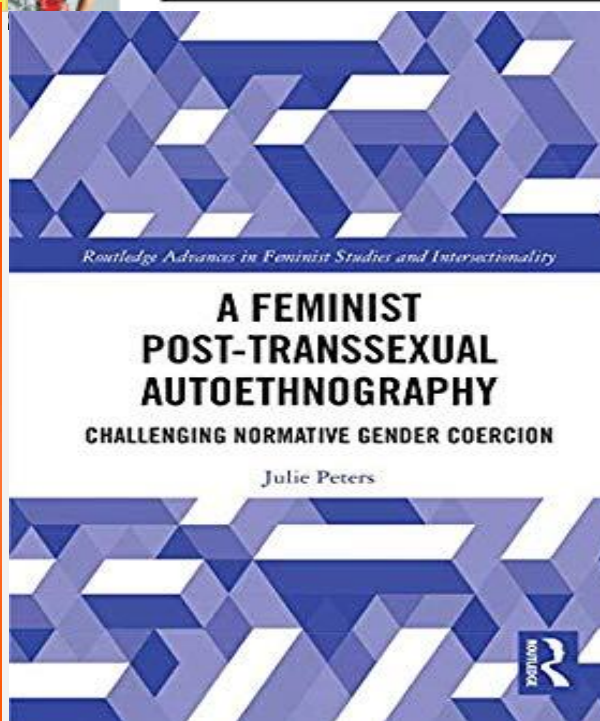


TOXIC SILENCE

Race, Black Gender Identity,
and Addressing the Violence
against Black Transgender
Women in Houston



WILLIAM T. HOSTON

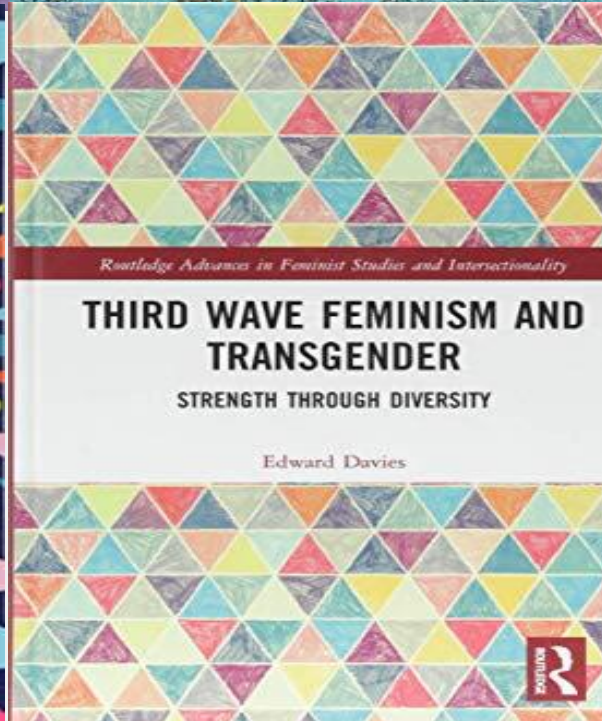
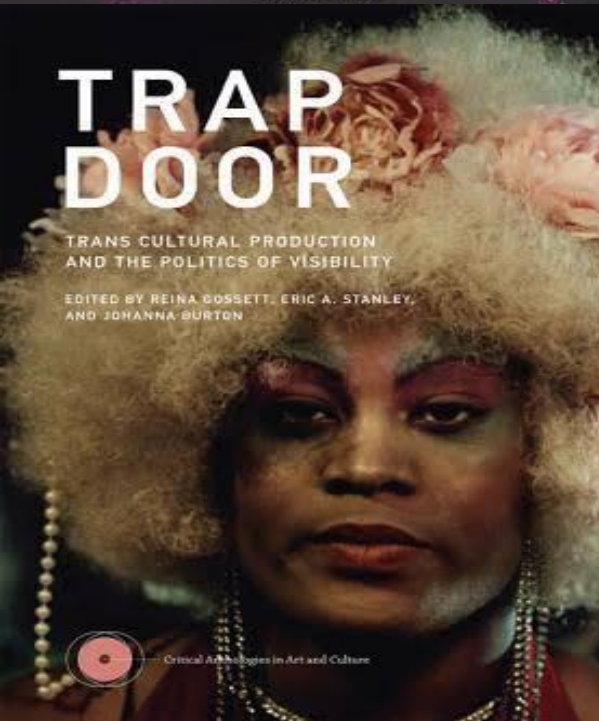
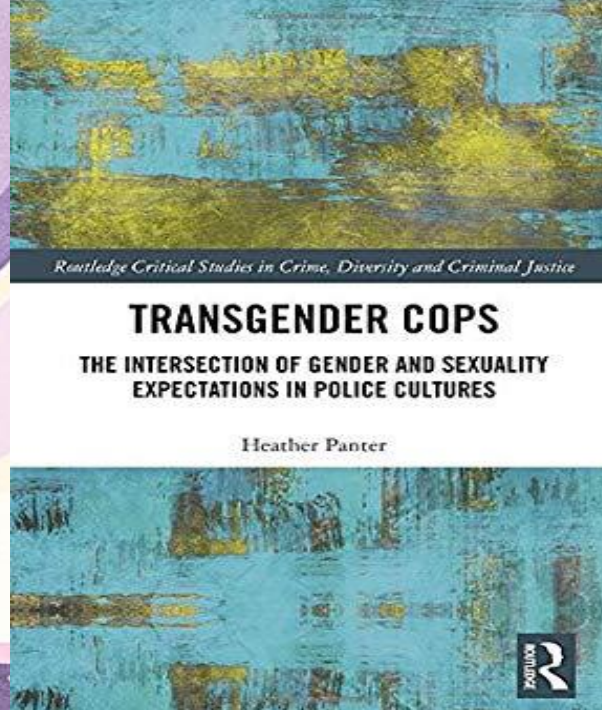
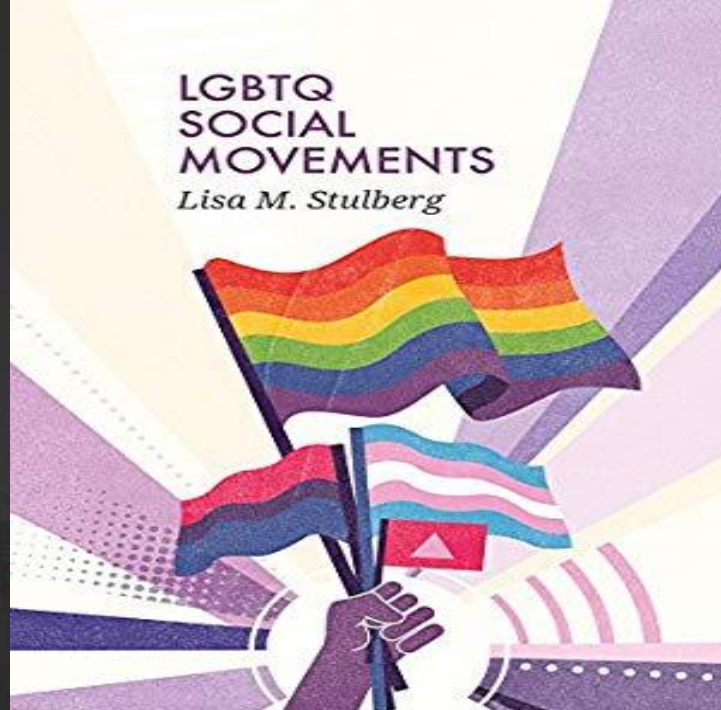
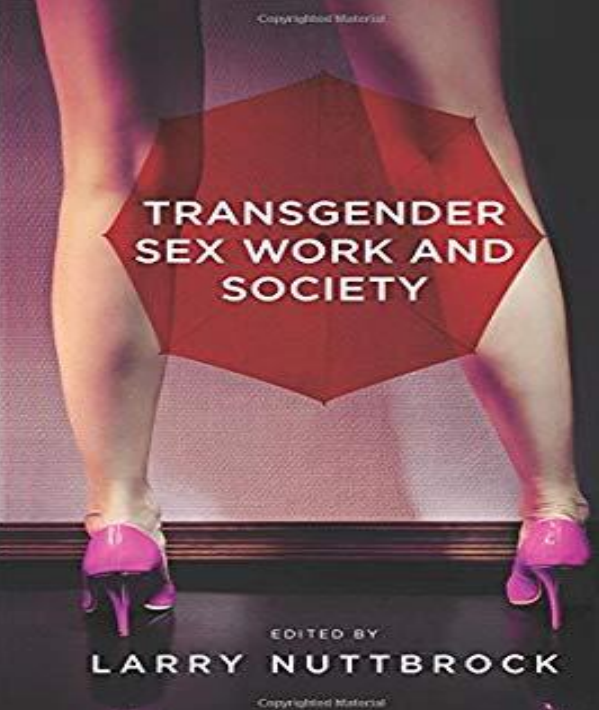


Routledge Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality

A FEMINIST
POST-TRANSEXUAL
AUTOETHNOGRAPHY
CHALLENGING NORMATIVE GENDER COERCION

Julie Peters





**GOOGLE SCHOLAR JOURNAL ARTICLE SEARCH:
'TRANSGENDER + SOCIOLOGY' 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



PRACTICE-FOCUSED RESEARCH

- ❖ 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

Special Issue Article [Trans Genealogies]

SEXUALITIES

Sexualities
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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

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Response and responsibility: Mainstream media and Lucy
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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

CONCLUSIONS

- Social science work on trans shows no sign of slowing down - eg. 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