

Year in review: Social & political sciences

Dr Zowie Davy zowie.davy@dmu.ac.uk

Associate Professor

Centre for LGBTQ Research

Themes of the Review

- **Anti-trans movements**
- **Young trans and non-binary people and schooling**
- **Fertility, fertility preservation technologies and experiences of pregnancy and parenthood**
- **Sex and sexuality**
- **Ageing and trans and non-binary populations**
- **Sport and exercising**
- **Other key studies informing health and wellbeing that are worth highlighting**

Anti-trans movements

- Jutel (2011) has argued that diagnosis changes the practice of medicine from a purely biomedical process to a medico-social practice, with intersecting social, political, technological, cultural and economic forces all connecting.

Anti-trans movements

- gender-panics surrounding sex/segregated spaces, sports, human rights principles (Hines, 2020).
- *TERF Wars: Feminism and the fight for transgender futures*, which collectively imagines a future of collaboration with the critics, rather than conflict (Vincent et al., 2020).
- by focussing on the causes of ‘detransing’ and the detrans rate it becomes a divisive issue of zero-sum clinical risk (Hilderbrand-Chupp, 2020).

Anti-trans movements

- medical and legal pathologisation, while sanctioning trans recognition systematically and unfairly subjects trans people to exclusions, repressions and other practices of personal, institutional and social harassment (Alonso-Martínez et al., 2021).
- Potentially impacting on life satisfaction studies where there are significantly more psychosocial burdens on all the measures when comparing cis gender and trans and non-binary students (Anderssen et al., 2020).

Young trans and non-binary people, schooling and health and wellbeing

- studies demonstrate how trans young people can create their own gender-discursive and embodied selves drawing upon a plurality of narratives, models and/or institutions in active and creative ways (Hilario and Marques 2020; Kennedy, 2020).
- Non-binary individuals seemed to experience higher levels of discrimination than binary-trans individuals (Bower-Brown et al., 2021; Davy and Cordoba, 2020).
- A persistently stressful and hostile school climate can make school about survival rather than success and fulfilment, with stressors detrimentally affecting educational achievement and wellbeing (Horton, 2020).

Young trans and non-binary people, schooling and health and wellbeing

- Trans and non-binary young people struggle to access the internationally recommended affirmative model of clinical care (Carlile et al, 2021; Rickett et al., 2021).
- age, lack of financial resources, areas where they were living, knowing what they wanted, and lack of self-acceptance figured in the lives of young people (Magalhaes et al., 2020).

Fertility, fertility preservation technologies and experiences of pregnancy and parenthood

- 39% of assigned female at birth respondents had current/future parental desire. Parental desire rates did not differ between trans men and non-binary people. Barriers for fulfilling the parental desire included assumed difficulties in the adoption procedure, fear of discrimination against the child or being discriminated against as a transgender parent (Defreyne et al., 2020; see also Rodgers et al., 2020).
- 21.6% of assigned male at birth respondents had current/future parental desire, parental desire was already fulfilled in 31.9%. Trans women were more likely to express a parental desire, compared to non-binary people and cross-dressers (Defreyne et al., 2020).

Fertility, fertility preservation technologies and experiences of pregnancy and parenthood

- in Sweden antenatal and obstetrical care and the positioning of a masculine identity and pregnancy as mutually exclusive affected patient security and interaction with HCPs (Flack et al., 2020).
- strategies used by trans and non-binary parents in negotiating normativity in parenting spaces highlight the tensions between being a pragmatic parent alongside what they call a pioneering parent (Bower-Brown and Zadeh, 2020).

Fertility, fertility preservation technologies and experiences of pregnancy and parenthood

- several studies argue for fertility preservation to be addressed with all trans and non-binary people before they start hormonal treatments and/or surgical procedures (Benaloun et al., 2021; Mancini et al., 2021).
- Rather, fertility clinics have an important role to play in normalizing and affirming the conception-related needs of men, trans/masculine and, moreover, pregnancy loss (Riggs et al., 2020; Riggs et al., 2020)

Fertility, fertility preservation technologies and experiences of pregnancy and parenthood

- Parenthood for trans and non-binary people in relation to adoption and fostering continues to be difficult because few social workers have had experience of trans adopters resulting less placements impacting on the ability for social workers to gain experience in the interests of children needing homes and adults whose preference or fertility experiences bring them to adoption and fostering (Brown, 2020; Brown & Rogers, 2020).
- professional standards of practice requires professionals to take active responsibility and be more accountable in educating themselves and others on the rights and best practice for these families (Hafford-Letchfield et al., 2020).

Sex and sexuality

- trans DIY porn and erotica demonstrate that there is a growing population of trans, non-binary and genderqueer folk who reject heteronormative and homonormative constructions of their sexuality (Davy, 2020).
- using the Italian version of the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire: non-binary folk did not rate the items presented as sexually exciting, suggesting that their sexual fantasies require more understanding vis a vis the hetero/homonormative descriptions of sexuality for this population (Anzani and Prunas, 2020).
- trans masculine and nonbinary individuals describe how they use their body during sex and how body dysphoria and the strategies to overcome body dysphoria were, which led to discussing their sexuality with their partner much more openly (Anzani, 2021).

Sex and sexuality

- in contrast to the positive aspects of sexuality, respondents to the Global Drug Survey said while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, transgender people were more likely than cisgender people to have experienced being taken advantage of in the last year (9.3% vs 4.2%).
- Non-binary participants were more likely than binary transgender participants (27.7% vs 17.8%) to report being taken advantage of sexually (Connolly et al., 2021).
- the importance of developing gender inclusive sex education programs to prevent negative sexual outcomes in this population is required (Ristori et al., 2021).
- trans and non-binary bodies were fetishized by some cisgender people, objectifying them rather than respecting them (Anzani et al., 2021).

Ageing and trans and non-binary populations

- trans people's previous experiences of discrimination from service providers, create worries about accessing and using later life services.
- a greater reliance on a system and workforce that does not understand trans and non-binary people.
- The evidence shows there is still much work to be done to ensure that older trans people have access to culturally appropriate and welcoming services (Benbow et al, 2020).
- there were stories of care provided by trans people for elders, especially family members as well as care for other trans people, struggling with economic and emotional insecurity (Santos, 2021)

Sport and exercising

- Transnegativity is perceived to be a big problem in sports particularly for trans girls and women (Braumuller et al., 2020).
- public space produces real and perceived levels of public surveillance of trans and non-binary people's bodies, meaning that their safety is negotiated variously daily (Caudwell, 2020).
- trans children were motivated to exercise, however, several factors impeded them, such as revealing sportswear, body dysmorphia and not being as good as others (Gilani et al., 2021).
- For genuine non-binary inclusion, it will mean a radical rethinking of how gender and sex operate in sport (Erikainen et al., 2020).

Other key studies informing health and wellbeing that are worth highlighting

- in trans refugee populations transphobia is present both in the country of origin and in the EU and its intelligibility changes according to context and culture. There is a need to decolonize gender identity and expression in refugee law. This has implications for decolonizing trans medicine and healthcare research (Avgeri, 2021).
- The right to register a third legal sex has become available in Germany; the Dutch government has not heeded the recommendations of its courts and the right to leave legal sex undetermined must be won in court on an individual basis (Shottle and Mugge, 2021).
- The COVID pandemic has heightened rates of poor mental health and clinical depression among trans and non-binary people due to access to gender-affirming resources and the ability of them to live according to their gender. It has created additional burdens: lack of referrals, limited access to gender-affirming treatment, hair removal and binder services as well as access to mental health counselling and psychotherapy (Buspavanich et al., 2021) .

Other key studies informing health and wellbeing that are worth highlighting

- *Sex/Gender and self-determination: Policy Developments in Law, Health and Pedagogical Contexts*. Policy press
- looks at the debates and issues surrounding the concept of self-determination when, in our case here, trans, non-binary and intersex people vis a vis cis people are treated inequitably when accessing treatments, and pedagogical spaces due to medicolegal frameworks surrounding their bodies, minds and desires

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