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# Girl in a Kinks Shirt

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**A socio-cultural examination of the Trans Community**

A woman with dark, slightly messy hair and a nose ring is smiling and holding a blue ceramic mug. She is wearing a grey tank top. The background shows a kitchen with a white door, a framed picture on the wall, and a white appliance, possibly a washing machine or dryer.

# Research Questions

1. What are the socio-cultural axes of differences operating in the trans community?
2. How are transpeople and their cisgender partners subjected to these axes of differences?
3. Why is the failure of transwomen meeting traditional notions of trans femininity seen as troubling?

# Rationale for Research

1. To explore the axes of difference that operate the trans community
2. To discuss the tensions between transgender activists and transsexual separatists
3. The conflict between transpeople and trans exclusionary radical feminists
4. To explain to cisgender people the social experiences of the trans community
5. To explore my own relationship as a member of the trans community

# Terms

- *Cisgender*: someone who identifies with the gender they are assigned as at birth.
- *TERFs*: Trans exclusionary radical feminists who oppose transwomen being involved in women's only spaces.
- *Passing*: The ability to for trans people to indistinguishable from cisgender people.
- *Cotton Ceiling*: the simultaneous social inclusion and sexual exclusion within the broader queer women's communities.
- *Tranny chaser*: someone who has a relationship with a transperson but does not want to be seen public.

# Methodology

- Using my own life history and auto ethnographic experience as a transwomen for the basis of this research
- Along with secondary data created by trans people and their partners.





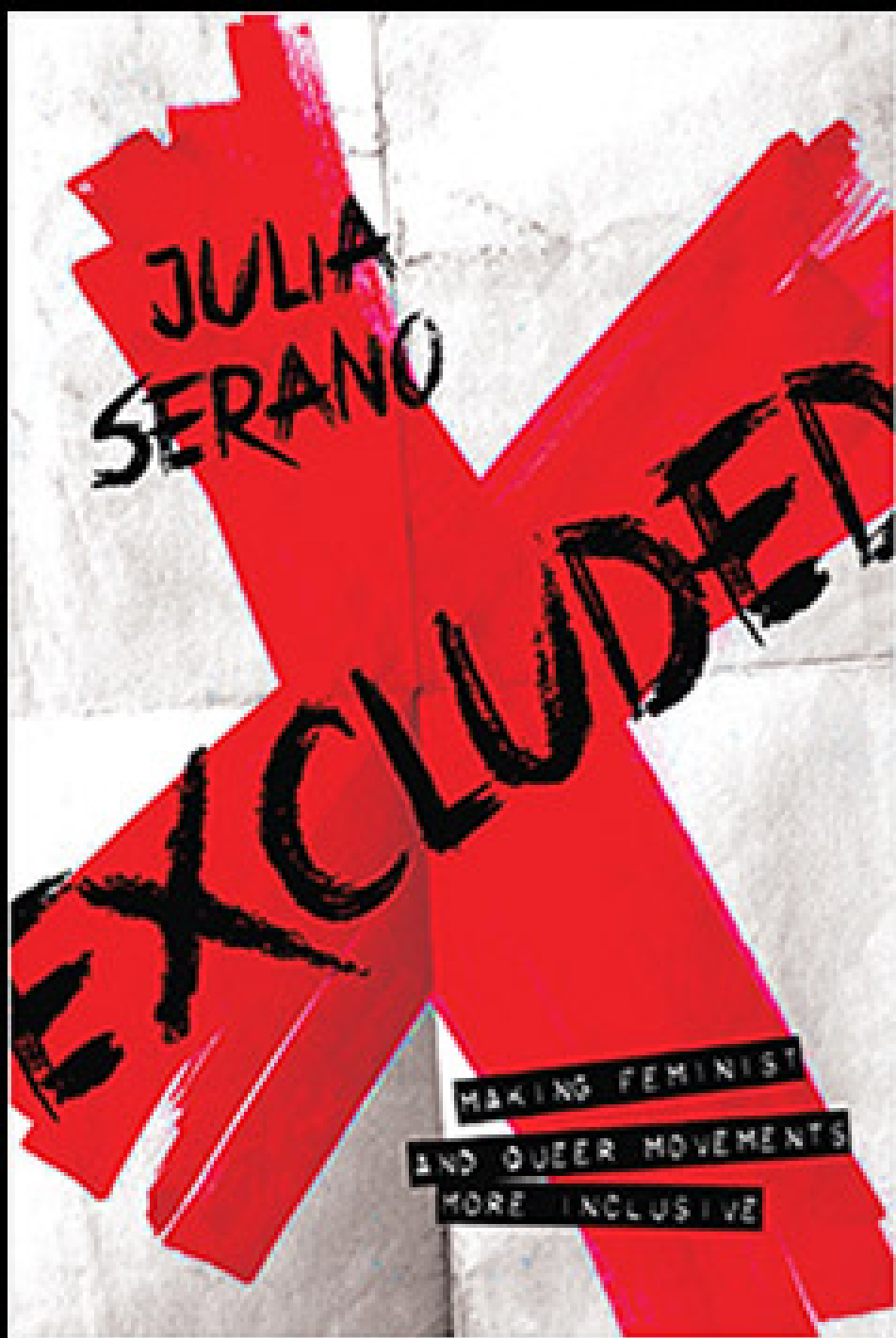
# GENDER OUTLAWS

THE NEXT  
GENERATION

KATE  
BORNSTEIN  
and  
S. BEAR BERGMAN



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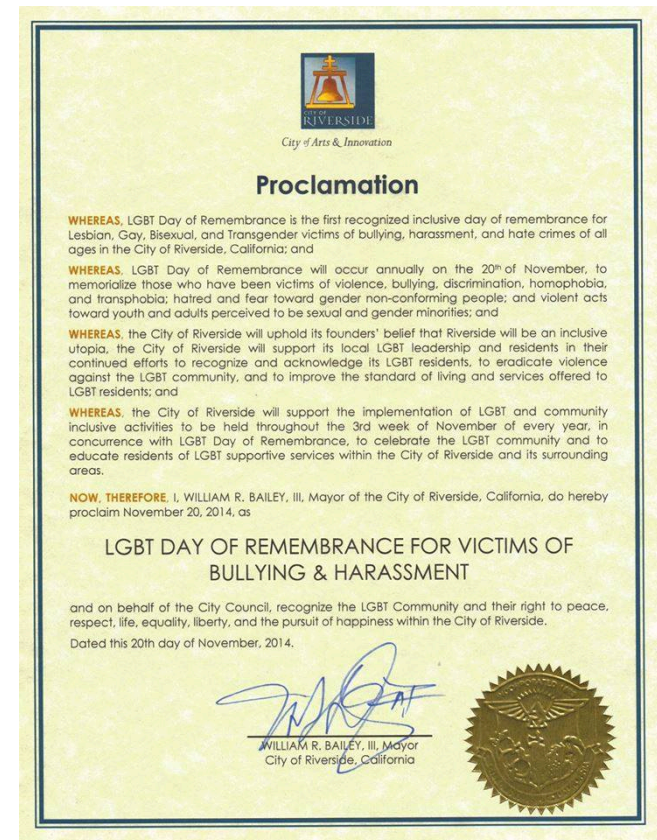




# Being Trans

- Gender as a social process (West and Zimmerman 1987)
- Academic enquiry has changed in four ways:
  1. Gender socialisation changes over ones life
  2. Doing gender weakens biological determinist arguments
  3. Gender differences are result of continual practice
  4. Gender can be constructed and deconstructed (Deutsch 2007)
- Trapped in the wrong body theory (Bettcher 2014)

- Transgender day of Remembrance
- Transpeople struggle with the appropriation of trans events and their erasure.





# Conclusion

- Non-trans people often struggle to understand transpeople's need to transition or the transition process
- Trans communities are vibrant and are often the diversity is often overlooked.
- The changing dynamics within the trans community are reflected in the recognition and acceptance of trans/cisgender relationships beyond the heterogender norm.

# References

- Bettcher, Talia Mae. 2014. "Trapped in the wrong theory: Rethinking trans oppression and resistance." *Signs* no. 39 (2):383-406.
- Deutsch, Francine M. 2007. "Undoing gender." *Gender and Society* no. 21 (1):106-127.
- West, Candace, and Don H. Zimmerman. 1987. "Doing gender." *Gender & Society* no. 1 (2):125-151.