

Wikipedia and the Biographies of LGBTQ+ People

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Wikipedia and the Biographies of LGBTQ+ People

- A guide with insights and tools for writing on transgender, travesti and LGBTQ+ People in the Free Encyclopedia
- Coming soon in English!
- Translation team: WMLGBT+, Art+Feminism and Wikimedia Argentina

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Insights and Tools for Writing on **Transgender, Travesti and LGBTQ+** People in the Free Encyclopedia





Where does it come from?

Some experiences from Argentina

- ★ Content gap related to LGBTQ+ culture, history and biographies: both in Spanish speaking-countries and locally (Argentina)
- ★ We wanted to collaborate with the LGBTQ+ community in Argentina
- ★ It is very important for us to be open to hear LGBTQ+ interests and needs, as well as to accompany their agenda
- ★ In WMAR we created a special communication strategy, activities and workshops



Who collaborated in creating this guide in English?

- ★ **Victoria Stéfano:** Argentinian travesti activist and journalist who collaborated creating the content of the guide in 2021
- ★ **An Millet:** is a transmasculine lesbian activist for LGBTQ+ rights, social worker, mental health specialist and the author of “Cissexism and Health: tearing down invisible walls”
- ★ **Kit Heyam:** is a writer and historian specialising in queer and trans history. Their book “Before We Were Trans: A New History of Gender” (Basic Books UK / Seal Press, 2022) is currently a finalist for the 2023 Lambda Award for Transgender Nonfiction.
- ★ **WMLGBT+, Art+Feminism and WMAR**



Note on “travesti” in Spanish-speaking context - An Millet

- ★ During the translation process, the word “travesti” was kept, so An Millet wrote a note to give context to this word
- ★ “Travesti” have been claimed in Latin America as an identity, such as it happened with “queer” in English
- ★ In Spain, “travesti” may not be as accepted by local activism as it is in Latin America
- ★ Gender identities are geographically situated, and keeping “travesti” as a Global South identity has the potential to open questions on it



Note on “trans” in English language - Kit Heyam

- ★ Kit’s book “Before We Were Trans” shows us that gender has never been fixed, essentialized, or unchallenged.
- ★ Focus on new methodological approaches to transgressive gender and sexuality in historical literature and culture
- ★ With their note, Kit sought to defamiliarize some terms we often take for granted when writing about the past.
- ★ Words like “man”, “woman” and “cross-dressing” are no more objective or neutral than “transgender”.



Barriers to writing about LGBTQ+ people on Wikipedia

- ★ Encyclopedic relevance: lack of sources to meet the references criteria
- ★ Historical invisibilization means that significant events, people and cultural productions haven't been documented
- ★ Orality and the shortage of graphic records
- ★ Few or none photographic or audiovisual records

Journalistic production on travestis and trans people

- It's not only about a lack of sources, it's also about on how the journalistic content was written
- Media stigma: criminalization and spectacularization of transgenders and travestis
- Pronouns, names and deadnames

¡Thank you!

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