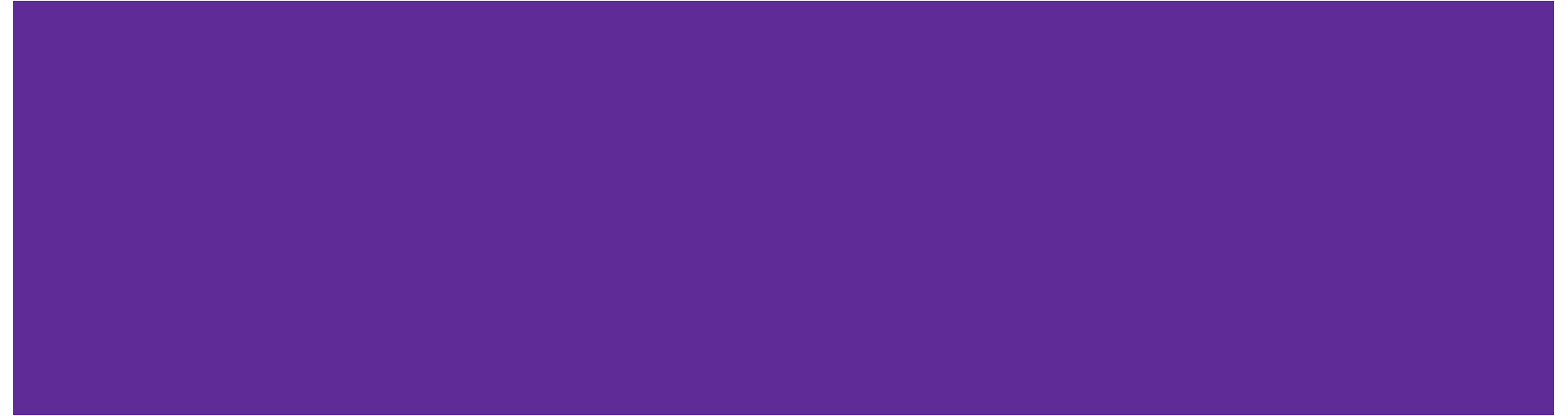# The Transgender Gap

Trans and non-binary representation on Wikipedia

What is the transgender gap?

Gap is primarily about knowledge, not numbers

Our numbers may be small, but we still matter

Goal is not to have equal numbers of trans and cis editors or articles!

Goal is to be more welcoming and have more accurate representation

Gender and sex basics

- Gender identity, or "subconscious sex"
- Gender expression
- Sexual orientation

All separate things.

Gender identity basics

Transgender - Does not identify with sex (male or female) assigned at birth.

Cisgender - Identifies with sex (male or female) assigned at birth.

Non-binary - Identifies as something other than a male or man, female or woman.

Genderqueer - Identifier used by some non-binary people.

Examples from Commons (all CC BY-SA 4.0)

Laverne Cox (by Pax Ahimsa Gethen)
Trans woman

Ryan Cassata (by Pax Ahimsa Gethen)
Trans man

Pax Ahimsa Gethen
(by Melanie Hofmann)
Agender (non-binary)

Jamie Shupe (by Estrogin)
Non-binary

Vandalism and non-binary erasure

Examples of vandalism of the *Genderqueer* page on Wikipedia, fall 2015:

- PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FICTION ARTICLE
- NONE OF THIS IS TRUE!!
- Genderqueer=Tomboy
- also termed "autism"
- a fake Tumblr made category for gender identities that are not real and stupid beyond belief
- "genderqueer" can be seen as a synonym for the term "freak of nature"
- Other people refer to this behaviour as "fuckery", and this behaviour is symptomatic of dementia and mental disorders
- mental illness
- these definitions were [c]reated by pissy teenage girls who want attention and are by no means legitimate

Global consequences

This is Google's cache of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on May 26, 2016 21:28:53 GMT. The current page could have changed in the meantime. Learn more

Full version   Text-only version   View source   Tip: To quickly find your search term on this page, press **Ctrl+F** or **⌘-F** (Mac) and use the find bar.

Article   Talk

Gender

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

There are only 2 genders. Male and Female.

Main page
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Random article

This page was last modified on 26 May 2016, at 21:28.

Feedback

Google search result and cache, Aug 12, 2016

Gender - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender ▾ Wikipedia ▾
There are only 2 genders. Male and Female. Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia. org/w/index.php?
title=Gender&oldid=722247975" ...
Gender identity · Sex and gender distinction · Sex · Grammatical gender

Content policies and lived experience

"No original research" and "verifiability" are core content policies of Wikipedia

But "reliable sources" don't reflect trans lives accurately

Transgender narratives are shaped by cisgender people

Trans folks lack equal access to tell our own stories

"Neutral point of view" and activism

"Neutral point of view" is core content policy

But "neutral" viewpoint in USA is that of straight cisgender white male

For out trans people, activism is necessary for visibility and survival

"Political correctness" is really just treating people with respect

Policy against "righting great wrongs" not excuse for treating people disrespectfully

Manual of style: Who decides our names?

Guideline for gender identity (pronouns, etc.): "Give precedence to self-designation as reported in the most up-to-date reliable sources, even when it doesn't match what's most common in reliable sources." (Good)

Guideline for mentions of trans people in other articles: "Use context to determine which name or names to provide on a case-by-case basis." (Not good; vague)

Guideline for birth names: "In the case of transgender and non-binary people, birth names should be included in the lead sentence only when the person was notable prior to coming out." (Room for improvement)

RfC to change above: Closer noted that only one openly trans person weighed in. (Me.)

Deadnaming and misgendering

Avoiding/reducing real harm; not giving "special treatment" to trans people

For those who transitioned *before* becoming notable, old name and gender are irrelevant

Using current name and gender is not "historical revisionism"

Curiosity is not sufficient justification

For editors, deadnaming in userspace particularly harmful

Social and psychological impact

Trans people are marginalized and vulnerable

41% of trans and gender non-conforming adults have attempted suicide

54% of trans youth have considered suicide (ideation); one third have attempted it

21 known murders of trans people in 2015; 22 in 2016; most were women of color

Best practices for gender surveys

Don't ask for gender if unnecessary, and don't assume binary gender

Don't have just "male/female/transgender" options on forms; trans is not a gender

Make gender, pronouns, and salutations fill-in-the-blank if possible

Consider adding separate question about transgender identity

Good examples from Wikimedia Foundation

WikiConference North America signup form

Inspire Campaign survey

7. With what gender do you identify?

○ Female

○ Male

○ Other

○ Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

○ female

○ male

○ another gender

[   ]

○ rather not say

Contact and resources

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