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# Impact of gender transition on sexuality and diversity of practices

## A qualitative analysis of Reddit discussions

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### INTRODUCTION

- Transgender population
    - Heterogeneous
    - Growing in visibility
    - Growing in numbers (up to 4.5% of adults & 8.4% of children and adolescents)
  - Transition (recognized in ICD-11)
    - Implies modifying some characteristics of sex and gender
    - Should be conceptualized as an ongoing process and not a delimited period
    - Is multifaceted
    - Because it modifies bodies, gender expression, gender expression,... it impacts SEXUALITY
- 

### LACK OF ACADEMIC DATA

- Existing medical research
  - Confirm that transition impacts sexuality
  - But mostly exist in a heteronormative and binary framework
  - Thus sexuality is understood as part of rehabilitation following medical interventions
  - And is measured with the average cisgender sexuality as a norm
  - Leading to projections of academics' views of normal sexuality as a measure
- Few humanities studies
  - Some participative or survivor studies as part of Queer Studies & Transgender Studies
  - But most are based on projections from a heteronormative and binary norm
  - Leading to epistemic incoherences and knowledge gaps
  - For example, the first analysis of transmen's sexuality was published in 2016
- In day-to-day practice
  - Huge variations between countries
  - Knowledge is gated behind contact lists managed by the community
  - Heterosexuality is still a widespread standard

### RESULTS

- Corpus
  - 39,583,763 words
  - 524,325 comments
  - 45,688 posts
- Sexual adjectives
  - All exist in corpus data
  - Are mainly used to qualify IDENTITY, GENDER & RELATIONSHIP
- Sexual categories
  - Mainly IDENTITY (n=3,694) & GENDER (n=5,182)
  - Rarely PARTNER (n=6) & DESIRE (n=74)
  - 2 data-driven: ACADEMIA (n=61) & POLITICS (n=307)

### RISE OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN KNOWLEDGE

- Information
  - Internet = main source of information
  - Driven by the community
- Global perspective
  - Opposed to the national or regional organization of care
  - Impact of language on access
  - Epistemic injustice
- Emerging new knowledge
  - Building on top of information transfer
  - Communities conceptualize themselves
  - Leading to a new paradigm
  - With better ecological validity
- Naming the body
  - As a part of transition
  - New body definitions leads to new ways to approach sexuality

#### Mouthfeel

The way a **feminine penis** (a penis belonging to a woman, non-binary femme, or **transfeminine** individual) tastes and feels, especially after starting hormone replacement therapy. Coined by **ContraPoints** on YouTube.

*Wow, I love the mouthfeel of my girlfriend's penis when I go down on her.*

*Girl dick is like fine wine. You have to take your time and really savor the mouthfeel.*

*Can we please talk about the mouthfeel? Why is nobody talking about the mouthfeel?*

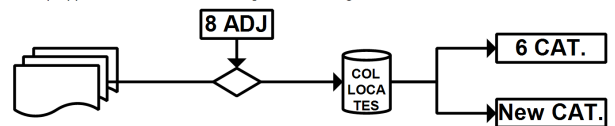
by **venusdemon** May 13, 2020

Source: UrbanDictionary

### QUANTITATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS

### METHODS

- Population
  - Comments from the subReddit /asktransgender
  - From 01-01-2021 to 31-12-2021
- Participatory approach
  - Inclusion of transgender researchers from the design of the study to the interpretation
  - Bottom-up approach driven from data
  - Part of an ongoing efforts to include queer linguistics into corpus linguistics approaches
- Corpus Linguistics
  - Collocation analysis of nominal collocations of 8 adjectives commonly used to talk about sexuality
  - Categorization of 30 most frequent collocates into 6 basic usage categories
  - Bottom-up approach allows for new categories to emerge from data



### CONCLUSIONS

These preliminary results illustrate that:

- There is a lack of evidence, data & interest in transgender persons' sexuality
- There is a need to develop new knowledge and conceptualizations of sexuality regarding transgender individuals
- Most knowledge emerges from self-conceptualizations both inside the communities and in humanities
- Developing a new knowledge pool requires to work with communities rather than building exclusively on past cisgender-centric conceptualizations
- The sexuality of transgender and gender diverse individuals cannot only be thought in a heteronormative framework
- Treating gender as a continuous rather than discrete variable allows for the development of new and specific forms of sexuality

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