

Poli 127

"Transgender: examining an emerging political identity
using three political processes." -

Murib, Z. (2015).

Osvaldo Barragan
Ryan Fonseca
Ramiro Gonzalez
Patty Mondragon
Ryan Nipstad
Ernie Pruneda
Rocio Robledo
Trevor Stime
Alejandra Villagomez

Title

- The title of this article is called “Transgender: examining an emerging political identity using three political processes”
 - It genuinely offers the audience an insight of what is to come because it focuses on the three political processes and the construction of this new political identity category by doing a professional study
 - This article just gives us a fragment of the main point of the article because it doesn't go further into topics such as the political processes and their influences towards this new emerging political identity.
 - There is not a specific geographic time nor location that the title of the article indicates, as for the institution it indicates, it would be the new emerging political identity because the main focus all throughout this piece is exactly that and how many factors are changing because of this new change in politics.
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Main Point & Question

Main Point: The main point of this article is the creation of a new political identity for transgenders in the development of USA during 1990-1999. This article seeks to show the unification of transgender-identified people, but also the differences within the transgender identity that created marginalization/exclusions in contemporary LGBTQ communities. This article focuses on:

- Conflict over meanings associated with the identity category
 - Political identities are shaped by struggles/conflicts
- Backlash in the form of stigmatization
 - Resistance by mobilization in response to minorities
- Representation across political venues where information of new identity is distributed
 - Political identities are products of perspectives of politics over time

Question: Why, how, and with what consequences is the unified political identity category based on similar embodied experiences and shared positions constructed by leaders and activists from various identities.

Puzzle

- Old independent variable consist of a binary sexuality and old dependent variable is political power. (Old idV + Old DpV)
 - Future Research: A shift from binary identities has shifted political power.
 - There has been a lot of documentation regarding who has held political power, and how policies have impacted society.
- Redefining gender leads to higher political power. (New IdV + Old DpV)
 - Future Research: Number of non binary people who hold political power.
- Binary sexuality leads to growth of sexual identifications. (Old IdV + New DpV)
 - Future Research: Find out how the diminishing of binary identification led to a the growth of groups dedicated to formed by sexual identification.
- Redefining genders leads to growth of sexual identities. (new IdV+ new Dpv)
 - How defining, or giving meaning to a word such as "gender" may impact how people begin to identify themselves as.

Debate

- The transgender political identity should be dissociated from pathological definitions
 - ◆ Shifting the meaning of transgender, representational counter discourse
 - Medical/psychological approach vs political empowerment approach
 - Separated into 3 main categories:
 - ◆ Biological sex
 - ◆ Sexuality
 - ◆ Gender identity
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- A new political identity was necessary to combat discrimination and create a coalition that would support policies favorable for transgender people.
- The new political identity that emerged from different set of groups brought forth a problems that endure till this day.
- Historical documents emphasize how many identities became one, and the problems that emerged.

Theory

Hypothesis

Conceptual Hypothesis:

- ❖ The construction of transgender political identity is influenced by three political processes: conflict, backlash and representation

Operationalized Hypothesis:

- ❖ Transgender social movement activist, publications and interest groups from 1990 to 1999 influenced the creation of a unified political identity for transgender-identified people

Operationalized Independent Variable:

- ❖ Unified political identity: Transgender

Operationalized Dependent Variable:

- ❖ Transgender social movement activist, publications and interest groups from 1990 to 1999



Research Design

What is the research design: This study examines the construction of a new political identity category during the 1990s and shows how activists and leaders shaped what had previously been disparate groups into a unified identity category and associated interest group coalition to represent transgender-identified people. This research uses a Historical Discourse Analysis approach to the archived documents of transgender social movement activists, publications, and interest groups from 1990 to 1999.

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Units of observation: Transgender-identified people

Units of analysis: Construction of a new political identity category through embodied experiences and shared political positions.

How are the units assigned to groups: Random. The study subjects were picked nationally. Although there were mostly transgender-identified people they were picked at random.

What is the independent variable or treatment of interest:

The independent variable are transgender-identified people.

How is the treatment administered to each group: By nature, transgender-identified people experience discrimination, etc. not by the researchers hands but by their own social interactions.

What is the dependent variable or outcome of interest: The dependent variable is the new transgender political identity category.

Are we interested in change in the dependent variable within groups: Yes, change is wanted and needed because some backlash arose within the gay and lesbian community that was beginning to foment in response to the increased visibility of transgender-identified people.

Are we interested in change in the dependent variable between groups: Yes, some changes are wanted. There is a need for inclusion, recognition and acceptance of differently identified people in different groups of society.

Empirical Analysis

- Qualitative: The use of historical documents and comments such as “if we do not make the title, we do not make the language”
 - Case study, policy such as ENDA bill , how it affected the trans community.
 - Anecdotal: “how the bigots who harass and kill us certainly consider us queers.”
 - Historical: Providing documents and accounts of conflicts within the marginalized community.
- Quantitative: Refers to the use of documents that progress from the 1990s to 2007, this provides a timeline.
 - Behavioral game theory, that is as time progresses a system reaches equilibrium.

Policy Implications

- The focus was on gender identity and changing through what both doctors said and therefore could change it politically.
- They focus on how to combat stigma and institutionalizing
- Since Conservative groups were targeting the trans community as un-american

Contribution to the Discipline & Future Research

- Providing the historical background of the word transgender.
- The unity of groups into a single political identity gave rise to ingroup conflict.
- Applying political processes of conflict, backlash, and representation to the transgender political identity

Questions

1. Can a political identity that is very fluid, composed of many identifies, and gives rise to internal conflict be able exist?
2. The need to develop new analytic strategies to better understand changing a changing political identity.