

Pronouns Good or Bad: Attitudes and Relationships with Gendered Pronouns in  
Gender-Diverse Undergraduates

---

A Thesis  
Presented to  
The Division of Philosophy, Religion, Psychology, and Linguistics  
Reed College

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Arts

---

Jade Fung

May 2020



Approved for the Division  
(Psychology)

---

Vasiliy Safin



# Acknowledgements

I want to thank a few people.



# Preface

This is an example of a thesis setup to use the reed thesis document class (for LaTeX) and the R bookdown package, in general.





# Table of Contents

<b>Abstract</b> . . . . .	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Literature Review</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Methods</b> . . . . .	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Results</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
3.1 Experiences with Misgendering . . . . .	7
3.2 Gender Congruence . . . . .	8
<b>Chapter 4: Discussion</b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
<b>References</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>



# List of Tables

3.1	Misgendering frequency for non-cisgender and cisgender participants .	7
3.2	Felt stigma when misgendered for non-cisgender and cisgender participants . . . . .	8



# List of Figures



# Abstract





# Abstract

The preface pretty much says it all.

Second paragraph of abstract starts here.



# Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to he/him lesbians.



# Introduction

Pronouns are small words used in place of nouns in sentences (“Pronoun,” 2020). Gendered pronouns are a type of pronoun that identifies the subject’s gender when used (“Preferred gender pronoun,” 2019). For example, in the sentence “she walks the dog,” she is the third person pronoun that replaces the subject’s name. In English, the most common pronouns are “she,” “they,” and “he.” It is important to note that “they” is widely recognized as both a singular and plural pronoun (“They,” 2019).

Gendered pronouns are especially important for transgender and non-binary individuals, since their appearance and gender may not match cisnormative expectations.



# Chapter 1

## Literature Review

Gendered pronouns.





# Chapter 2

## Methods

### *Participants*

477 undergraduate students from Reed College in Portland, Oregon participated in an online survey about “attitudes towards gendered pronouns.” Participants were recruited through online advertisements and posters around campus. Notably, this sample is around one-third of the undergraduate student body. Data collection was conducted over a two month period, starting in February 2020. It should be noted that the global pandemic that occurred in early 2020 shortened our opportunity to collect data.



# Chapter 3

## Results

### 3.1 Experiences with Misgendering

Similar to McLemore (2015), we had participants report how frequently they were misgendered and how stigmatized misgendering made them feel. However, unlike McLemore (2015), we administered these questions to cisgender people as well. Independent t-tests were used to compare the cisgender ( $N = 276$ ) and non-cisgender participants ( $N = 156$ ). Non-cisgender participants ( $M = 3.28$ ,  $SD = 0.96$ ) reported being misgendered more frequently than cisgender participants ( $M = 1.45$ ,  $SD = 0.7$ ),  $t(231) = 21.6$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ . Non-cisgender participants ( $M = 3.15$ ,  $SD = 1.3$ ) also reported feeling more stigmatized when misgendered than than cisgender participants ( $M = 1.59$ ,  $SD = 1.01$ ),  $t(261) = 12.9$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ . Pearson’s Chi-squared tests were used to compare the misgendering frequency observed in McLemore (2015) to the non-cisgender participants in the present study. There were significant differences when compared to both the study 1 population,  $X^2(4, N = 544) = 13.54$ ,  $p = 0.01$ , and the study 2 population,  $X^2(4, N = 582) = 11.41$ ,  $p = 0.02$ .

McLemore (2015) performed a one-way ANOVA “to compare differences among three gender groups (transgender men, transgender women, and genderqueer)” in misgendering frequency and felt stigma when misgendered. Because I took a different approach to collecting gender-related demographic data, I elected to perform a factorial ANOVA comparing endorsement of several endorsed identities on misgendering frequency and felt stigma.

Table 3.1: Misgendering frequency for non-cisgender and cisgender participants

“How often do people ‘misgender’ you?”	Non-cisgender (%)	Cisgender (%)
Never	6.4	68.8
Rarely	14.0	24.9
Sometimes	30.6	4.7
Often	44.6	1.3
Always	4.5	0.3

Table 3.2: Felt stigma when misgendered for non-cisgender and cisgender participants

“I feel stigmatized (looked down upon)when I am misgendered.”	Non-cisgender (%)	Cisgender (%)
Not at all	12.2	68.5
Slightly	20.5	12.0
Somewhat	28.2	13.4
Considerably	18.6	4.0
Very	20.5	2.2

There were multiple significant effects of identity endorsement on misgendering frequency. Cisgender,  $F(1, 464) = 702.04$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , transgender,  $F(1, 464) = 21.3$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , and non-binary identity,  $F(1, 464) = 40.59$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , all demonstrated significant effects. There was no significant effect in women ( $p = 0.11$ ) or men ( $p = 0.08$ ) alone. However, there was a significant effect in transgender women,  $F(1, 464) = 11.76$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ . There was not a significant effect in transgender men ( $p = 0.37$ ). There was also a significant effect in non-binary women,  $F(1, 464) = 11.76$ ,  $p = 0.004$ , but not in non-binary men ( $p = 0.296$ ).

There were also multiple significant effects of identity endorsement on felt stigma when misgendered. Cisgender,  $F(1, 422) = 210.75$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , and transgender,  $F(1, 422) = 39.81$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , identities demonstrated significant effects. However, non-binary ( $p = 0.15$ ) identity did not show a significant effect. Neither men ( $p = 0.51$ ) nor women ( $p = 0.38$ ) alone showed significant effects, nor did trans women ( $p = 0.69$ ). However, trans men,  $F(1, 422) = 7.41$ ,  $p = < 0.001$ , demonstrated a significant effect. Neither non-binary men ( $p = 0.77$ ) nor non-binary women ( $p = 0.43$ ) demonstrated a significant effect.

Unlike McLemore (2015), I also collected participants pronouns. This allowed me to perform a factorial ANOVA with a follow-up Tukey test to examine pronouns, independent of gender, had an effect on misgendering frequency.

## 3.2 Gender Congruence

Kozee, Tylka, & Bauerband (2012) developed the TCS (Transgender Congruence Scale) to measure transgender individuals' relationship and comfort between their inner gender identity, physical appearance, and social experience of gender. Tate, Youssef, & Bettergarcia (2014) advocate for integrating the study of transgender and cisgender populations to practice a more cohesive study of gender experiences. So, I administered the TCS to cisgender participants as well.

Unlike Kozee et al. (2012), I collected gender-related demographic data by asking participants to write in their gender identity. I qualitatively coded themes from the write-in gender question. Then I administered the following yes/no questions: “Are you cisgender?”, “Are you transgender?”, and “Is your gender non-binary?”. Answering yes on one question did not force the participants to answer no on others—this treated gender identity as a collection of separate, related labels that participants

may or may not identify with simultaneously.

`cis_n`

1 477

Overall, `r` participants identified as cisgender, `r` identified as transgender, and `r` identified their gender as non-binary.

Non-cisgender participants demonstrated lower scores on the TCS than



# Chapter 4

## Discussion

So, we found some gendered pronouns.





# References

- Kozee, H. B., Tylka, T. L., & Bauerband, L. A. (2012). Measuring Transgender Individuals' Comfort With Gender Identity and Appearance: Development and Validation of the Transgender Congruence Scale. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 36(2), 179–196. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0361684312442161>
- McLemore, K. A. (2015). Experiences with Misgendering: Identity Misclassification of Transgender Spectrum Individuals. *Self and Identity*, 14(1), 51–74. <http://doi.org/10.1080/15298868.2014.950691>
- Preferred gender pronoun. (2019, November). *Wikipedia*. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Preferred\\_gender\\_pronoun&oldid=925883384](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Preferred_gender_pronoun&oldid=925883384)
- Pronoun. (2020). *Mirriam-Webster*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pronoun>
- Tate, C. C., Youssef, C. P., & Bettergarcia, J. N. (2014). Integrating the Study of Transgender Spectrum and Cisgender Experiences of Self-Categorization from a Personality Perspective. *Review of General Psychology*, 18(4), 302–312. <http://doi.org/10.1037/gpr0000019>
- They. (2019). *Merriam-Webster.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/they>