

TRANSCENDING MASCULINITY: DEPICTIONS OF QUEER MASCULINITY IN
TRANSGENDER MAGAZINES

Ryan Kessinger

ABSTRACT

A wide-range of literature explores the study of masculinity as an individual experience for transgender men through their transition. This essay focuses on how magazines for transgender men depict transgender masculinity. In particular, this work examines images from *FTM Magazine*, and how they show an adaptation of traditional gender norms in the processes of redefining masculinity for and by transgender men. Understanding the Transgender community has increasing importance, as the ban of transgender people in the United States military no longer abides and controversial bathroom bills flood news outlets. It is necessary to review how masculinity will be expressed in transgender men who are becoming visible to mainstream America. My analysis suggests that despite social expectations of traditional masculinity, transgender men are expressing understandings of masculinity in a new, Queer, fashion. This essay reviews previous literature discussing trans masculinity in media, and employs content analysis to discuss impressionable depictions of masculinity in transgender men through magazine media outlets.

Keywords: *Transgender, transgender man, masculinity, Queer masculinity*

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, it was estimated that roughly 700,000 or 0.3% of the American population identified as Transgender¹ (Gates). As of 2014, the estimated number of Transgender identified Americans has doubled to 0.6% or 1.4 million of the U.S. population (Flores, et. al). This increase in numbers is reflective of the open conversation about transgender people that is happening in the United States. The Transgender community has become a national point of discussion with celebrity coming out stories, bathroom bill proposals, and the ban on trans service men in the United States Armed Forces being lifted. A wide-range of literature explores the study of masculinity as an individual experience for transgender men through their transition². How masculinity is presented in men's magazines is an important sociological issue that has been analyzed by researchers and sociologist; that being said, the majority of research that has been done is on how masculinity is portrayed in magazines targeted for cisgender³ men, not for transgender men. This essay focuses on how masculinity of transgender men is displayed in magazines for female-to-male (FTM)⁴ individuals. Examining images from *FTM Magazine* shows the traditional gender norms placed upon trans men as well as the redefining of masculinity by transgender men. My analysis suggests that even with societal expectations of traditional masculinity, transgender men are expressing their masculinity in a new, Queer, fashion. This essay reviews previous literature discussing trans masculinity in media, and

¹ Transgender – “An umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth” (Anon, 2016). Trans is the shorthand way of referring to this identity.

² Transition – “A person's process of developing and assuming a gender expression to match their gender identity. Transition can include: coming out to one's family, friends, and/or co-workers; changing one's name and/or sex on legal documents; hormone therapy; and possibly (though not always) some form of surgery” (Anon, 2016).

³ Cisgender - “term for someone who exclusively identifies as their sex assigned at birth” (Anon, 2016).

⁴ FTM – “female-to-male; someone assigned female at birth who identifies as a man; trans man” (Anon, 2016).

engages a content analysis to discuss impressionable depictions of masculinity in transgender men through magazine media outlets.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is growth in research conducted over transgender men as the Transgender community begins to be integrated into the frameworks of society. Research of the Transgender community contributes to the progression of the LGBTQIA community as a whole. This research also relates to the current conversation on how media representation of transgender people shapes public expectations of gender expression. Additionally, social research on masculinity in trans men also critically examines issues of toxic masculinity, transnormativity⁵, and gender norms in the media. Understanding the messages about masculinity in the media is important because of the influence media has on public opinion as well as being a tool for an introduction to the Transgender community. Media as an introductory tool to the Transgender community has the power to shape societies conceptions of the Trans community. The following section will describe key themes in the current research discussion how masculinity is depicted in magazines for transgender men.

MASCULINITY IN TRANSGENDER MEN

Research on the masculinity of transgender men has united with a larger discussion of how masculinity is expressed by all men. When picturing an example of masculinity an image of a muscular man with facial hair and a love for sports comes to mind. Transgender men rely on this imagery of masculinity, and often overcompensate their own masculinity, in an attempt to

⁵ Transnormativity – “the specific framework to which transgender people’s presentations and experiences of gender are held accountable” (Johnson 2016). The assumption or belief that all Transgender people identify or express their gender in the same way. This can include assumptions about surgeries and hormone therapy.

validate their identities as male when beginning their identity searching (Vegter 2013). This hyper expression of masculinity eventually tapers off allowing a new understanding to what it means to be male. Vegter (2013) discusses that FTM individuals considered masculinity to be non-crucial for their identities as they come to terms with themselves; they are able to conceptualize a subjective male identity without requiring masculinity. Vegter (2013) continues on to explain that femininity does not have to be absent for an FTM individual to identify as male. The shift in the necessity of masculinity for a male identity is unique to the transgender community and collides with previous research on how masculinity defines an individual's identity. Masculinity and male identity take on a subjective meaning for transgender men while cisgender men have a significantly more definitive understanding of masculinity. Cisgender men relate their male identity and masculinity to their biological genitalia (Vegter 2013). In opposition, trans men express that male genitals do not determine masculinity or male identity (Gardiner 2013; Johnson 2016; Vegter 2013). Masculinity, as reconstructed by transgender men, challenges previous research on what masculinity is to cisgender men.

TRANSNORMATIVITY

Focusing on the representation of transgender men specifically, there are ideals that trans men are expected to live up to in order to assimilate into society. Johnson describes transnormativity as “the specific framework to which transgender people’s presentations and experiences of gender are held accountable” (2016, pp 465). In order to achieve validity for their gender identity, there are ideals placed onto trans men by society. These ideals can pressure trans men to take part in the strenuous work that men do, such as working out to build muscle, to achieve the societal standard of a male physic (Wickerman 2003). There are medical options trans men are being expected to desire and complete to attain the ideals put into place by society.

Surgeries and hormones have become a necessity, by society, for a transgender man to have a valid male body (Funk & Funk 2016; Gardiner 2013; Johnson 2016; Siebler 2012; Wickerman 2003). Siebler (2012) explains that trans men undergo top surgery⁶ and hormone replacement therapy (HRT)⁷, as well as adapting to stereotypes of masculine gender expressions, in order to pass⁸ as a typical male. An emphasis on passing in society pushes many trans men away from their initial motivations to medically transition. A number of transgender men originally seek surgery and hormones to connect the link between their bodies and gender identity (Gardiner 2013). The expectations of what a transgender man should look like has created a new method of standardization for the Transgender community.

TRANS IN THE MEDIA

Finally, social research encourages the examination of transnormativity as an important issue in a media analysis of masculinity in transgender men. Johnson (2016) and Siebler (2016) explain that media serves as a teaching medium for transgender people to learn the current criteria for being trans in society. These societal standards can be seen in the narrative of documentaries, the portrayal of characters in television and film, or the images within magazines. Often the media displays the narrative of transgender people being born in the wrong body and casting medial transition as a necessity (Johnson 2016). Missing from media outlets are the narratives of a transgender people who cannot or have no interest in medically transitioning (Johnson 2016; Siebler 2012). The exclusion of narratives about transgender people who live without medically transitioning are rarely exposed in the media due to the reaction society has to

⁶ Top Surgery – chest surgery such as double mastectomy to masculinize the chest for transgender men (different surgery for transgender women).

⁷ Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) – a medical transition process in which sex hormones (testosterone for trans men) are administered to align an individual’s physical body with their gender

⁸ Pass (Passing) – “Being perceived by others as a particular identity/gender or cisgender regardless how the individual in question identifies” (Anon, 2016).

their trans body. When the body of a transgender person fails to meet the criteria of societal expectations they become repulsive or fetishized, and seen as less than human (Funk & Funk 2016; Siebler 2012). Society, through the media, has the ability to influence a trans person's transition. Limiting representation of the Transgender community to an ideal transgender person limits societies expectations of what a trans person looks like and therefore perpetuating the cycle of transnormativity. Multiple researchers, such as Funk and Funk (2016), Johnson (2016, and Siebler (2016), have expressed that the current representation of transgender people in the media is displayed through a cisnormative⁹ and heteronormative¹⁰ lens resulting in a standardization of "the Trans experience."

Collectively, media analysis of masculinity in transgender men has its place alongside a history of sociological research observing gender norms and expectations. New to this discussion is media outlets, such as magazines, created by trans men and marketed specifically for transgender men. Researchers looking at masculinity of transgender men in the media are primarily concerned with how an emphasis on medical transitioning is creating an expectation of uniformity of all transgender men. The following research will further explore how masculinity of transgender men is portrayed in magazines specifically for FTM men. The presence of similar themes through the seasonal issues of the magazines can help support the existence of those themes in society. Themes that are found to be contradicting will show conflicts between cisgender masculinity and transgender masculinity in society. The media analysis of themes around masculinity in transgender men magazines will add to the body of work in Gender and Sexuality Sociology, and ultimately increase society's understanding of its own gender norms.

⁹ Cisnormative – the assumption or belief that all people are cisgender, or that being cisgender is the "normal" or default gender.

¹⁰ Heteronormative – the assumption or belief that all individuals are heterosexual, or that being heterosexual is the "normal" or default sexuality.

DATA AND METHODS

This study utilizes unobtrusive method to analyze how *FTM Magazine* depicts the masculinity of transgender men. *FTM Magazine* is a magazine dedicated to reflecting transgender men's stories, culture, and community. *FTM Magazine* has grown to a fan base of nearly 30,000 on Facebook only two years after releasing the first issues in 2014. In those two years the magazine has published ten issues that are released quarterly. *FTM Magazine* was chosen based on the similarities in format to a traditional men's magazine.

Content analysis was the most appropriate methodology for this research because the focus is on portrayals of trans masculinity and FTM culture. A content analysis examines non-interactive data that exists autonomous of the research (Hessey-Biber and Leavy 2011). Using a content analysis will aid in understanding how masculinity is depicted in *FTM Magazine*. To start, I examined ten issues of *FTM Magazine* published quarterly in the past three years. The magazines analyzed are the following issues: Summer 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 216, and Summer 2016. From the ten issues released by *FTM Magazine*, I will be analyzing a sample size of sixty images. The images used for the data were the first six images of trans men covering half or more of the page, excluding the cover. If an image, such as an advertisement, was included in the six images of one issue it was then excluded if repeated in another issue to allow for image diversity. After collecting the data and an initial analysis, I coded the material. I recorded characteristics of each image such as physical attributes (Is the person muscular or skinny? Do they have facial hair, have had top surgery, or undergone HRT?), and body position (Are they facing forward, relaxed, stretched out, or smiling?). After gathering the data, I then looked for patterns. The coded images were grouped by themes or patterns. Grouping the data helped to find key concepts in the

material and form larger categories. Finally, the data was reduced into three overarching analytical themes.

It is important to identify the limitations associated with this study. Firstly, *Original Plumbing*¹¹ is the only another FTM specific magazine, and by not exploring this additional magazine I may have missed valuable data. Secondly, there are a variety of transgender websites such as transguys.com, transglobalmagazine.com, and tglife.com than can provide additional data and insight. Thirdly, the cover page of the *FTM Magazine* issues analyzed were not included with the purpose of focusing on what the reader would be seeing within the magazine. Lastly, no other methodologies such as in-depth-interviews or focus groups were used to analyze trans men's experience with media for Transgender people. Despite these limitations, content analysis was appropriate to answer my research question.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of this study was to explore how *FTM Magazine* depicts masculinity in trans men. Analyzing the images within this magazine will help construct an understanding of how a magazine for transgender men portrays queer masculinity¹². The findings from this analysis answer my research question on how *FTM Magazine* depicts the masculinity of trans men. Three major themes emerged after collecting and analyzing the data. (1) The majority of transgender men captured in the magazine express their masculinity in an emotional state; (2) The magazine portrays masculinity as a symbol of a trans man's body; (3) The magazine represents masculinity

¹¹ *Original Plumbing* magazine was not used in this study due to the formatting of the issues. Each issue focuses on a particular topic while *FTM Magazine* more closely resembles that of a traditional men's magazine.

¹² Queer masculinity refers to being masculine outside the constructions of heteronormative masculinity or breaking traditional images of masculinity

for transgender men as a state of being. Each theme will be discussed below in attempt to provide the reader with an opportunity to see *FTM Magazine* through a queer and feminist lens.

Masculinity: not just superficial

Theme 1: The majority of trans men shown in *FTM Magazine* are captured in emotional states.

The initial finding of this study is that *FTM Magazine* portrays emotions as a key part of masculinity. Based on the images analyzed in *FTM Magazine*, transgender men are smiling, looking directly into the camera, and standing by themselves. Throughout the magazine there are images of trans men smiling and expressing happiness. These smiling faces portray real FTM individuals expressing happiness in a sincere manor. For example, the fourth image of the Spring 2015 issue has a FTM individual smiling from ear to ear, his¹³ head tilted back, all teeth showing, lines around the mouth, and eyes so squinted that they're almost shut (see image 1). Similarly, the first full page image in the October 2014 issue there is a trans man with a relaxed body position, side tilted head, squinted eyes, and lines around his face from smiling (see image 2). In these captured moments the trans men's masculinity is presented by their smiles to symbolize genuine happiness. Traditional masculine gender roles suggest that aggressive emotions, such as anger, are the emotions that men should express the most. Masculinity for transgender men in *FTM Magazine* is an outlet to express emotions such as genuine happiness.

¹³ Ze/Hir/Hirs/Hirself – a gender neutral pronoun used in the Transgender and Non-binary community. I will purposely be using a combination of pronouns in this paper to demonstrate pronoun diversity and to normalize using these various pronouns.

The trans men featured in *FTM Magazine* are often shown looking directly at the camera providing a sense of eye contact with the viewer¹⁴. Through this direct stare, the transgender men are displaying the vulnerability of their masculinity. The third image from the January 2015 issue displays a young trans man looks directly at the camera with a solemn look on their¹⁵ face; their eyes expose their experiences with masculinity and being Transgender (see image 3). Focusing on the face and eyes of this FTM individuals establishes a connection with the viewer about them being more than just another trans person. In comparison, the second image from the October 2014 issue has a trans man looking at the camera with a content look on his face (see image 4). While the expression on his face is different, he is also exposing his deeper personal story. *FTM Magazine* shows that trans men are vulnerable and open with their masculinity for others to see their journeys.

Masculinity continues to be displayed as emotional in *FTM Magazine* with the majority of trans men being captured by themselves. Featuring the FTM individuals by themselves in images shows masculinity as personal experience for each person. As seen in the third image of the Winter 2016 issue, the trans man is standing alone with a black background and a light only on his. (see image 5). The use of the all black background emphasizes the focus on the individual by himself. In that space by himself, his masculinity is all his own. Similarly, the fourth image of the October 2014 issue shows a young trans man sitting alone in a suit, lost in his own thoughts (see image 6). This image displays a feeling of content this trans man has with his own masculinity. While these two images generate a sense of contentment for the trans men and their

¹⁴ While analyzing and recognizing the pattern of trans men looking directly at the camera an overwhelming emotion overcame me. Looking into the eyes of all those people with different stories connected me to this work with a deeper purpose.

¹⁵ They/Them/Theirs/Themselves – (singular) a more commonly used gender neutral pronoun in the younger Trans and Non-binary community.

masculinity, the fourth image of the January 2015 issue displays a much deeper emotional response (see image 7). In this image the FTM individual is standing by themselves in a dominant stance and stern look upon their face. This image expresses that they are the creator of their own masculinity. Their masculinity and gender journey is for them alone.

The appearance of emotional masculinity is seen throughout the issues of *FTM Magazine*. Smiling and happiness are outlets to express emotions and trans men allow for their masculinity to show those emotions. Direct eye contact displays the vulnerability that FTM individuals experience as masculine people. Standing alone reflects the personal, emotional, journey that trans men experience during their transition. These are all representation of how masculinity for FTM individuals is emotional. This emotional expression of masculinity opposes the distant, often hard, emotions of traditional gender roles expressed by cisgender men.

Masculine body: some assembly required

Theme 2: *FTM Magazine* portrays masculinity as a character of a transgender man's body.

FTM Magazine promotes transnormativity when it comes to representing the bodies of trans men. Throughout the magazine issues there are images of shirtless FTM individuals who have undergone Top Surgery. Looking past this initial layer of shirtless bodies there is evidence about what having a masculine body means to trans men. The images in *FTM Magazine* are mostly captured from the waist up, showing FTM individuals with top surgery as confident, and having trans men posing in relaxed, natural, positions. These characteristics of physical masculinity challenge the expectations society places on cisgender men to physically express

their masculinity. Cisgender men have an attachment between their masculinity and their bodies that does not apply to transgender men.

The trans men featured in *FTM Magazine* are often captured from the hips and up. At first glance the viewer might miss the deeper meaning behind the focus of the photo. By only showing the trans men from the waist up it is implied that what an FTM individual has below the belt does not reflect their masculinity. The sixth image in the July 2014 issue shows a FTM individual in two overlapped images (see image 8). He is wearing a button up and tie, touching his chest and head, and looking away from the camera. By focusing on him from the waist up his masculinity is being expressed by his clothes and body expression. Traditional gender roles of cisgender men place an emphasis on genitalia as a point of masculinity. By capturing this transgender man from the waist up his center of masculinity is not being placed on his genitalia. Similarly, the sixth image from Summer 2016 captures a trans man in a masculine pose but only from the hips up (see image 9). Ze is posing with his arms crossed, one hand touching his face, and looking away from the camera. Regulating these photos to only being the upper half of a trans man's body helps in reducing the bottom dysphoria¹⁶ many FTM individuals experience. This absence of lower body images also encourages a de-standardization of what FTM individuals are expected to have in their pants and the need for Bottom Surgery¹⁷.

While loose expectations are established for trans men and their genitalia, the same cannot be said about their chest. *FTM Magazine* is filled with images of transgender men shirtless and post-operative from Top Surgery. The sixth image from the Summer 2016 issue captures a trans man shirtless, his arms stretched behind his head, and showing off his scars from

¹⁶ Dysphoria – “Anxiety and/or discomfort regarding one’s sex assigned at birth” (Anon, 2016). Bottom dysphoria refers to anxiety or discomfort one has towards their biological genitalia.

¹⁷ Bottom Surgery: “Genital surgeries such as phalloplasty or metoidioplasty for FTM individuals” (Anon, 2016).

Top Surgery (see image 10). Exposing his surgery scars demonstrates a sense of pride and confidence that comes from having those scars. His masculinity is amplified through his confidence as a FTM individual who has undergone surgery to have a masculine presenting body. An attempt to strive for that same confidence is seen in third image of the Summer 2016 issue (see image 11). A FTM individual is standing alone with an open button up shirt that exposes their binder¹⁸; they are looking off in the distance and their face is drawn into a thoughtful expression. While they are exposing their body in a confident manner, they are still wearing a binder to have the ideal masculine chest. This trans man has found a way to express masculinity that is like those FTM individuals who have had Top Surgery. Not having the trans man showing his natural chest and being confident adds emphasis on the masculinity ideals that the Transgender male community has towards Top Surgery.

With the transgender men in *FTM Magazine* being confident with their masculine bodies they are expressing that masculinity through their body positions. Referring back to the fourth image on the October 2014 issue, the young trans man is expressing masculinity in the way he is dressed as well as the relaxed neutral position he is sitting in (see image 6). His masculinity is emitted naturally through the simplicity of how he is sitting with his legs spread apart and arms slightly away from his body. This FTM individual is expressing traditional masculine gender norms through his posture. The same traditional gender norm is seen in the sixth image of the Summer 2015 issue (see image 9). Ze is posed in a relaxed position that appears neutral but a smaller photo in the top left corner exposes that ze is imitating a pose by a cisgender male model. Reliance on traditional masculine gender norms is a heavy factor for how the trans men in *FTM Magazine* position their bodies. Traditional masculine gender roles establish that a masculine

¹⁸ Binder – a chest compression vest or pull over that flattens the natural chest tissue of an FTM individual to give the appearance of a flat and masculine chest. Often wore until the person is able to receive Top Surgery.

individual should take up space to express their masculinity to others. These transgender men are following this gender role throughout *FTM Magazine* and promoting these behaviors to the viewers.

Doing masculinity

Theme 3: *FTM magazine* represents the masculinity of the majority of trans men as a state of being.

FTM individuals vary in stages of their transitions in all ten issues of *FTM Magazine* analyzed. The images in *FTM Magazine* capture trans men at different points in their transition as well as living a masculine lifestyle. Inclusion of these periods in the trans men's lives represents the notion that masculinity is a state of being. Capturing the growth and daily experience of these FTM individuals shows that masculinity is involved in every aspect of their lives and is carried with them throughout their transition.

The trans men featured in *FTM Magazine* are captured in various stages of their personal transitions. Through each stage of the transition process these FTM individuals are expressing their masculinity. The second image of the Fall 2015 issue captures a young trans boy in a relaxed position and a confident look in xyr¹⁹ face (see image 12). This boy is still in the very early stages of xyr transition. Despite xyr age, xe is still expressing masculinity that could be matched with any FTM adult. This image captures xyr masculinity at that specific point in time; as xe continues to grow with xyr gender transition xry masculinity will also grow. Images of one trans man in two different issues of *FTM Magazine* display this growth. The second image of the Fall 2015 issue captures a trans man in the woods, with very little facial hair, and a boyish look

¹⁹ Xe/Xem/Xyr/Xemself – a gender neutral pronoun used in the Transgender and Non-binary community.

on his face (see image 13). The fourth image in the Summer 2016 issue show the same trans man but after a year of development; his face now has more facial hair and that boyish softness on his face is all but gone (see image 14). The first image of this FTM individual captures his masculinity as exploration and freedom. The second image still holds masculinity but it is now expressed with maturity and experience of life. The change between these photos reflect how masculinity for transgender men is something that grows along with them as they develop during their transition process. Allowing for this spectrum of masculinity during life differs from the narrative that society has for masculinity. Media representations particularly show the same expectations of masculinity at any point in a man's life. For the Transgender male community there is acceptance of masculinity as a spectrum that one explores throughout their life.

As masculinity grows and changes throughout a trans man's gender journey, there is an importance to live their lives with their masculinity in that moment. *FTM Magazine* captures transgender men living their everyday lives expressing masculinity as a part of who they are. The sixth image of Fall 2015 shows a FTM individual taking a selfie while out exploring nature (see image 15). In that moment he is completely himself; his masculinity is not the focus of the image but is present because it is part of his identity as a trans man. Similarly, the sixth image from October 2014 shows a FTM individual sitting down, playing the guitar, and completely focused on their instrument (see image 16). Once again this photo is not focused on the masculinity of this trans man but it is still present as part of them. Who they are in that moment of time is a masculine transgender man. Society as set expectations for men to always be masculine and express their masculinity. For transgender men this daily express of masculinity goes a step further; masculinity as displayed in *FTM Magazine* is part of these transgender men's

existence. Who they are in these captured moments is masculine, therefore FTM masculinity is a state of being.

CONCLUSIONS

This study aimed to analyze how *FTM Magazine* depicts the masculinity of transgender men. The analysis of ten magazine issues through the past three years exposed three significant findings. These themes are supported by using images directly from *FTM Magazine* and including in text examples.

The first theme revealed that the majority of trans men shown in *FTM Magazine* are captured in emotional states. Transgender men are seen smiling, looking directly at the camera, and standing alone through the magazine issues. *FTM Magazine* consistently promotes the emotional experiences of masculine FTM people. The second theme was that *FTM Magazine* portrays masculinity as a character of a transgender man's body. Each issue of the magazine has multiple pictures of post-operative transgender men posing without their shirts on in masculine manors. What it means to have a masculine body to the Transgender Male community is exposed in the images of confident FTM individuals who have had Top Surgery. The third theme recognized that *FTM magazine* represents the masculinity of the majority of trans men as a state of being. This was illustrated through the various points of transition by each FTM individual who was photographed.

The promotion of masculinity as emotional contradicts traditional masculine gender norms which restrict emotional expression outside of aggression. Allowing for transgender men to be emotional opens for a new understanding of what it means to be a man and how to express yourself as a masculine person. An emotional understanding of masculinity provides a space for

FTM men to express themselves during their transition. This new understanding of masculinity continues with the removal of genitalia as the source of masculinity for an individual. Traditional gender norms in society put an emphasis on men's genitalia as the center of their masculinity. Removing the expectation of transgender men's genital status encourages an acceptance of an individual's body and reduction of bottom dysphoria in the Trans Masculine community. This shift in focus allows for masculinity to be represented in other aspects of a transgender man's body. Transgender men can decide what their ideal masculine body looks like to them rather than having to follow the expectations set up for cisgender men. Finally, expectations of fixed masculinity by society is altered by the Trans Masculine community. Through each stage of a trans man's transition they are exposed to new forms and degrees of masculinity based on where they are in their life. Masculinity is a personal experience for each individual within the Transgender community. For these reasons, FTM men have created a way to express their masculinity in a Queer fashion.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anon. n.d. “*LGBTQ+ Definitions.*” TSER: Trans Student Educational Resources. Retrieved September 25, 2016 (http://www.transstudent.org/definitions?gclid=cjwkeajw652_brdfkebvrdogkdisjad0q2rusb-g3roec0f267rpsaktvsbzqaic3gc8z7cde5cubroc2tpw_wcb).
- Flores, Andrew R., Jody L. Herman, Gary J. Gates, and Taylor N. T. Brown. 2016. “*How Many Adults Identify As Transgender In The United States?*” The Williams Institute: UCLA School of Law. Retrieved December 1, 2016 (<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>)
- Funk, Steven and Jaydi Funk. 2016. “Transgender Dispossession in Transparent: Coming Out as a Euphemism for Honesty.” *Sexuality & Culture* 20(4):879–905.
- Gardiner, Judith Kegan. 2013. “Masculinity's Interior: Men, Transmen, and Theories of Masculinity.” *The Journal of Men's Studies* 21(2):112–26.
- Gates, Gary J. 2011. “*How Many People Are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender?*” The Williams Institute: UCLA School of Law. Retrieved December 1, 2016 (<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-How-Many-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf>)
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene N. and Patricia Leavy. 2011. *The Practice of Qualitative Research*. New York: Sage Publishing.
- Johnson, Austin H. 2016. “Transnormativity: A New Concept and Its Validation through Documentary Film About Transgender Men.” *Sociological Inquiry*, 86(4), 465-491.
- Siebler, Kay. 2012. “Transgender Transitions: Sex/Gender Binaries in the Digital Age.” *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health* 16(1):74–99.

Vegter, Vanessa. 2013. "Conceptualizing Masculinity in Female-to-Male Trans-Identified Individuals: A Qualitative Inquiry." *Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy* Vol (41):88–108.

Wickman, Jan. 2003. "Masculinity and Female Bodies". *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research* 11(1):40-54.

APPENDIX

A. IMAGES

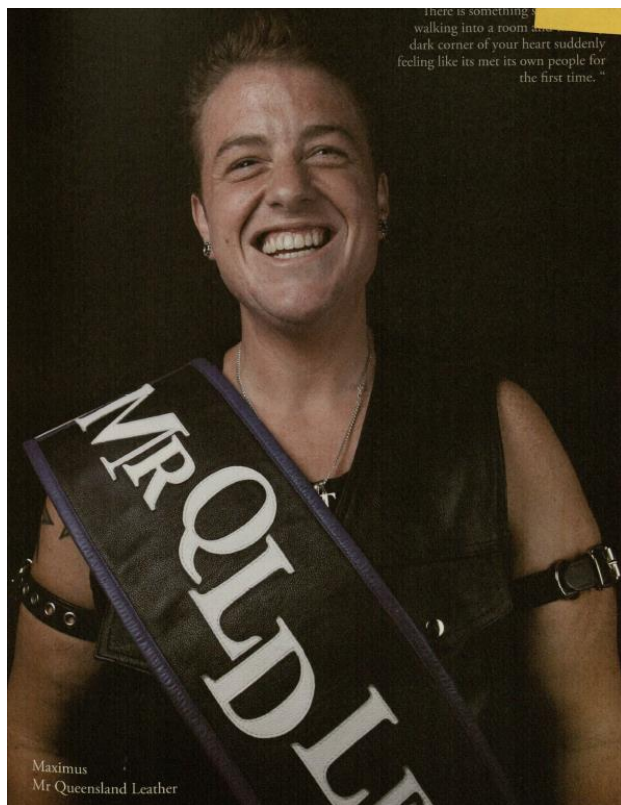


Image 1; Spring 2015



Image 2; October 2014



Image 3; January 2015

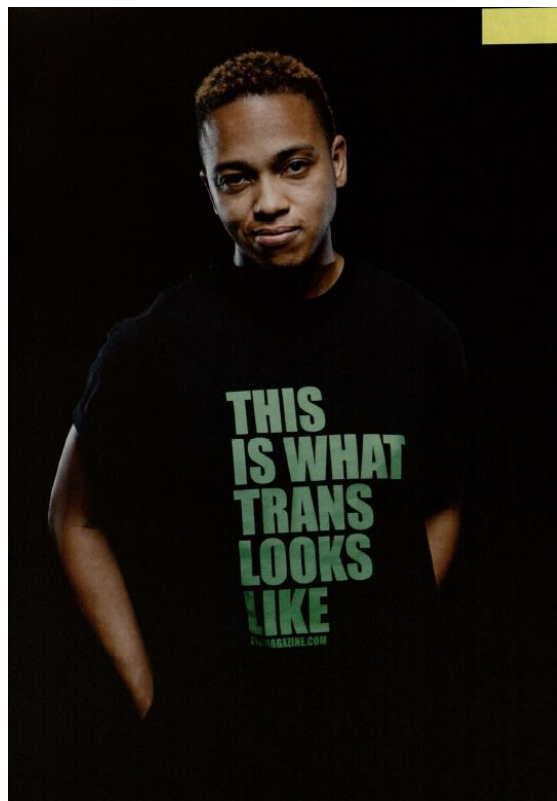


Image 5; Winter 2016



Image 4; October 2014



Image 6; October 2014

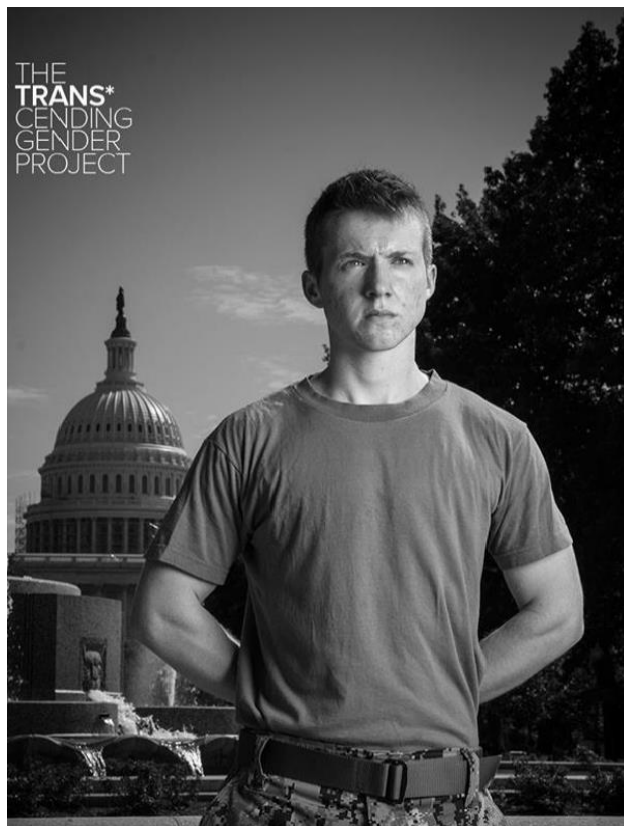


Image 7; January 2015

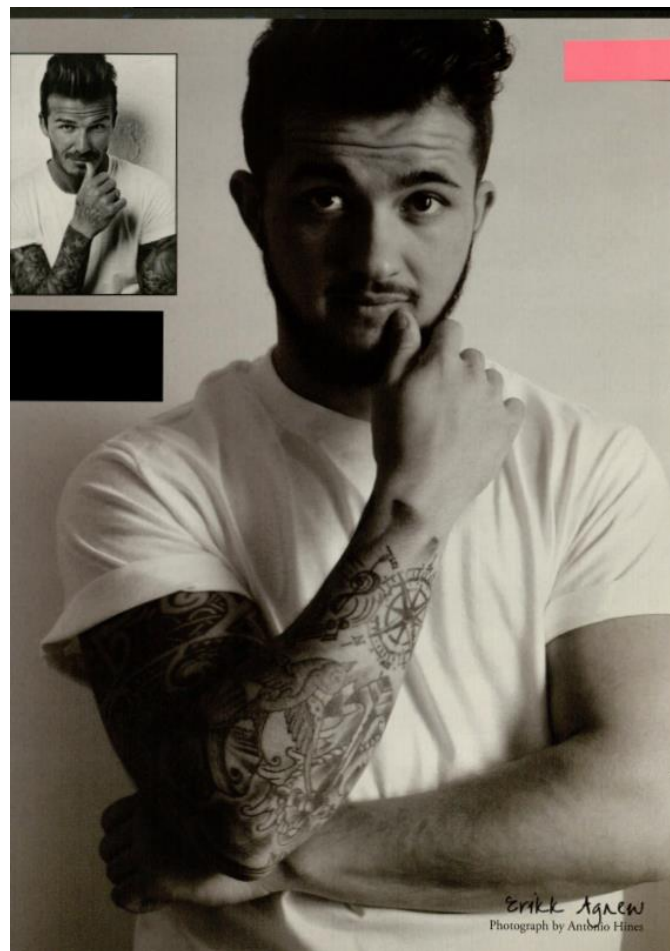


Image 9; Summer 2015

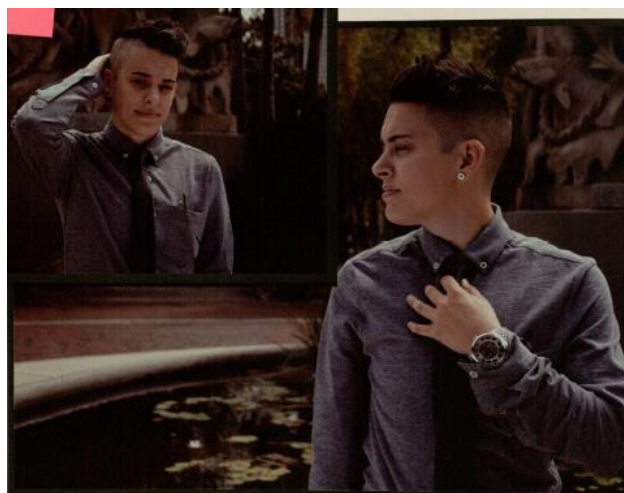


Image 8; July 2014

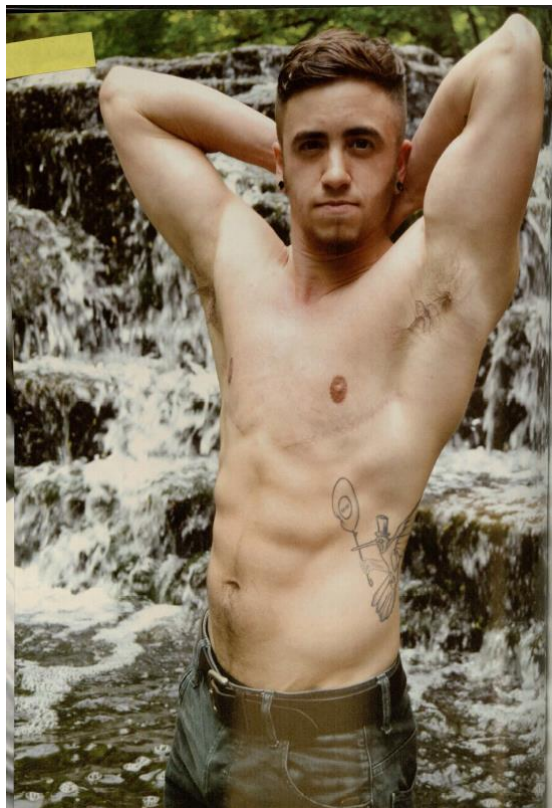


Image 10; Summer 2016

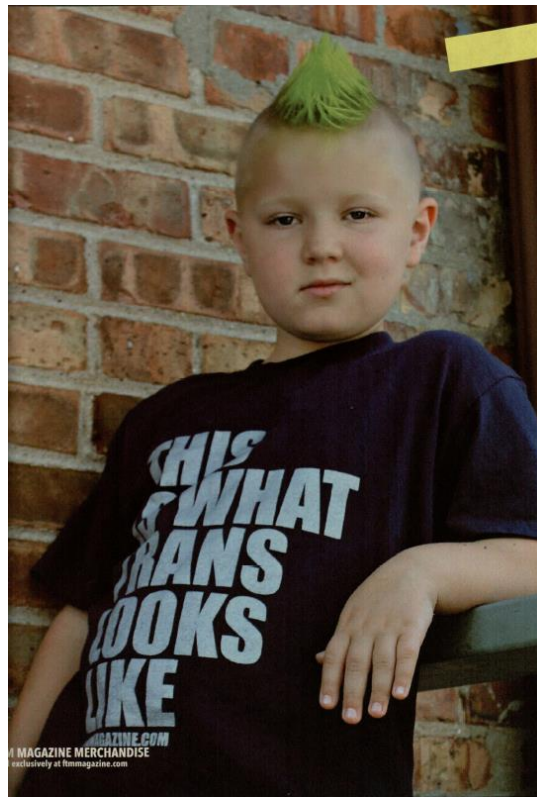


Image 12; Fall 2015

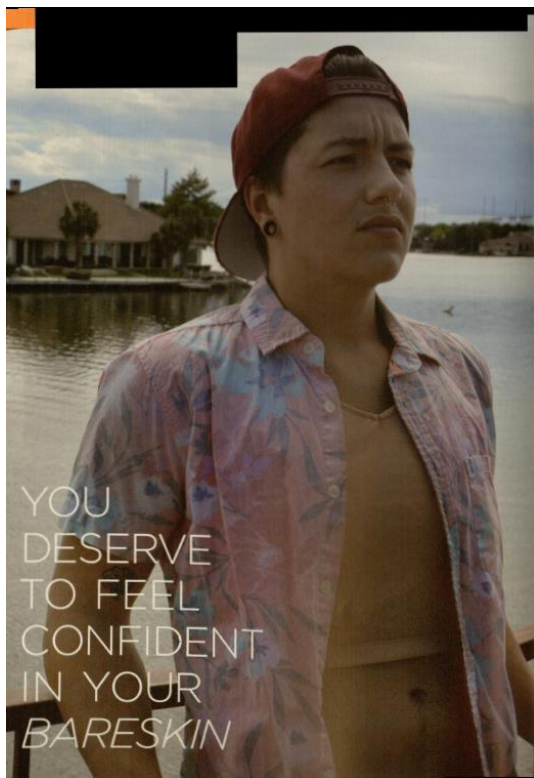


Image 11; Summer 2016



Image 13; Fall 2015

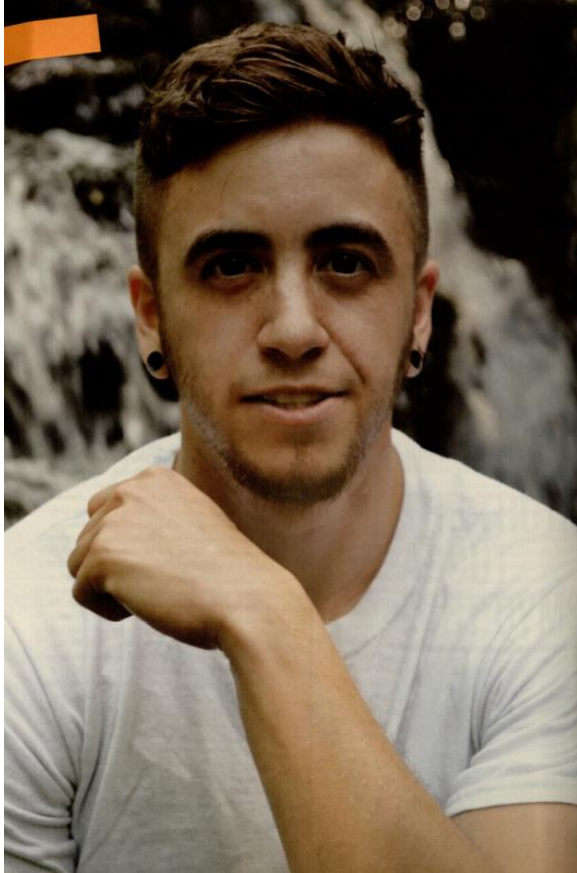


Image 14; Summer 2016



Image 16; October 2014

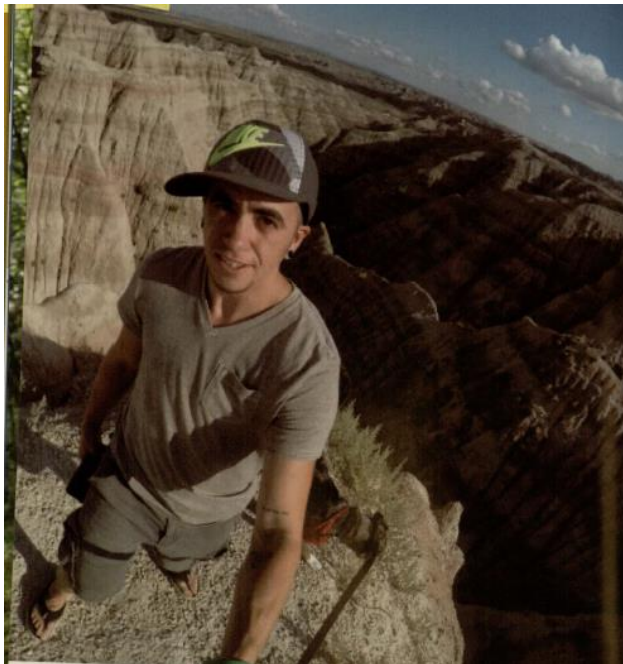


Image 15; Fall 2015