

Homelessness and the LGBTQIA+ Youth/Young Adult Community

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Bio: DJ Ralston – Pronouns: they/them/theirs

- Non-Binary/TransMasc, Queer, Geriatric Millennial, Foodie and Muppet Enthusiast
- Professional Background
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Public Workforce Development
 - Technical Assistance – Disability and Employment
- Education
 - Certified (Partner) Work Incentive Coordinator
 - Masters Degree – Rehabilitation Counseling
 - Doctoral Candidate – Human and Organizational Learning
- Areas of Expertise
 - Supporting LGBTQIA+ Populations including LGBTQIA+ Students & Youth
 - Social Social Security Work Incentives and Financial Empowerment
 - Relationship Building, Partnership Development, and Training Development



Session Objectives

- Increased knowledge of the intersection between homelessness and/or housing instability and LGBTQIA+ populations.
- Increased knowledge and ability to use common language around LGBTQIA+ Identity including the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity
- Increased understanding of transition/ing as it relates to gender identity including the social, legal, and medical aspects of transition and the ways in which that can impact participation.

LGBTQ+ or LGBTQIA: Acronyms and Definitions

- **Lesbian** - A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.
- **Gay** - A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.
- **Bisexual** - A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.
- **Transgender** - Umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.
- **Queer** - Umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual and cisgender.
- **Intersex** - Umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, these traits are visible at birth, and in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal variations of this type may not be physically apparent at all.
- **Asexual** - The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.
- **Cisgender**: Used to describe an individual whose gender identity and gender expression align with the sex assigned at birth.

Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ+ Individuals (Adults)

- Sexual minority adults are **twice as likely** as the general population **to have experienced homelessness** in their lifetime.
- A **higher proportion of transgender** people report recent homelessness than sexual minority and cisgender straight people.
 - Within the last 12 months:
 - **8%** of Transgender Adults (of varying sexual orientations) experienced homelessness.
 - **1%** of cisgender straight adults experienced homelessness.

Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQ+ Individuals (Ages 13-24)

- **28%** of LGBTQ Youth reported experiencing **homelessness or housing instability** at some point in their lives.
- Nearly half (44%) of Native/Indigenous LGBTQ youth have experienced homelessness or housing instability at some point in their life, compared to 16% of Asian American/Pacific Islander youth, 27% of White LGBTQ youth, 27% of Latinx LGBTQ youth, 26% of Black LGBTQ youth, and 36% of multiracial LGBTQ youth.
- **Homelessness and housing instability** were reported at **higher rates among transgender and nonbinary youth**, including 38% of transgender girls/women, 39% of transgender boys/men, and 35% of nonbinary youth, compared to 23% of cisgender LGBTQ youth.
- 16% of LGBTQ youth reported that they had slept away from parents or caregivers because they ran away from home, with more than half (55%) reporting that they ran away from home because of mistreatment or **fear of mistreatment due to their LGBTQ identity**.
- **14% of LGBTQ youth** reported that they had slept away from parents or caregivers because they were **kicked out or abandoned**, with **40% reporting** that they were **kicked out or abandoned due to their LGBTQ identity**.

Homelessness and Housing Instability Among LGBTQIA+ Individuals (Ages 13-24)

- LGBTQ youth in our sample who reported housing instability or homelessness had **nearly two to four times the odds** of reporting depression, anxiety, self-harm, considering suicide, and attempting suicide compared to those who did not report any housing instability.
- LGBTQ youth who reported past housing instability or current homelessness had **nearly 6x greater odds** of reporting that they had **been in foster care** at any point in their life.
- According to HUD, **20% - 40% of all homeless youth identify as members of the LGBTQ community**, and for them, homelessness or the threat of homelessness frequently forces youth into survival behaviors that jeopardize their wellbeing and safety.

Your Support Matters.

Centering Care Ethic(s) and Compassionate Assistance (Building off of House-Training Session 2)

- Building on what was covered earlier in this series, an important part of working with individuals from the LGBTQIA+ population begins with centering an ethic of care and supporting individuals using the compassionate assistance approach.
- Ethic of Care
 - Relationship-based, contextual, compassion, benevolence, responsibility to others
- Compassionate Assistance
 - Creating welcoming and inviting spaces, language matters, knowledge of and access to referrals and resources

Compassionate Assistance: Language Matters



- Language contributes to identity and helps LGBTQ+ people create and find community
- Nuance and differences in beliefs
 - LGBTQ People are not a monolith
 - If you have met one trans person, you've met one trans person
- Constantly Changing Landscape
- People (especially youth) will determine quickly if you are a safe person.
- Person first language vs. Identity first language
- Utilizing language clients use talking about multiple identities
- What is informing your language?

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

Sexual/Affectual Orientation

- An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to other people.
 - Gay
 - Lesbian
 - Homosexual
 - Bisexual
 - Pansexual

Gender Identity

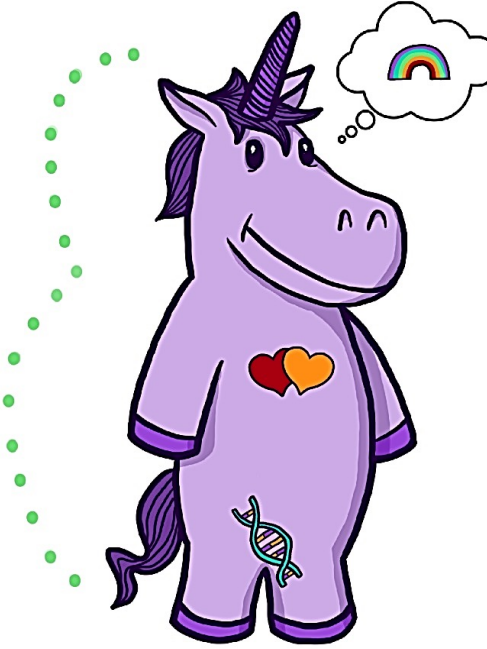
- One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.
 - Transgender
 - Non-Binary
 - Genderqueer
 - Gender-Fluid
 - Gender Expansive
 - Gender Non-Conforming

Gender Identity vs. Sexual Orientation

- **Gender**
 - Identity
 - Expression
- **Sex Assigned at Birth**
 - AMAB
 - AFAB
 - Intersex/Other
- **Sexual/Affectual Attraction (Orientation)**
 - Physical
 - Emotional

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources



Gender Identity

- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression

- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth

- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

American Psychological Association: Defining Transgender Terms

- **Cisgender:** Used to describe an individual whose gender identity and gender expression align with the sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender binary:** The classification of gender into two discrete categories of male and female.
- **Gender dysphoria:** Discomfort or distress related to an incongruence between an individual's gender identity and the gender assigned at birth.
- **Gender expression:** Clothing, physical appearance and other external presentations and behaviors that express aspects of gender identity or role.
- **Gender identity:** An internal sense of being male, female or something else, which may or may not correspond to an individual's sex assigned at birth or sex characteristics.

American Psychological Association: Defining Transgender Terms (continued)

- **Gender nonconforming:** Describes an individual whose gender identity or gender expression differs from the gender norms associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Genderqueer:** Describes an individual whose gender identity doesn't align with a binary understanding of gender, including those who think of themselves as both male and female, neither, moving between genders, a third gender or outside of gender altogether.
- **Non-Binary** - a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do.
- **Trans-affirmative:** Being aware of, respectful and supportive of the needs of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals.
- **Transgender:** An umbrella term encompassing those whose gender identities or gender roles differ from those typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

American Psychological Association: Defining Transgender Terms (continued-2)

- **Trans Man:** Someone who is transgender and identifies as a man.
- **Trans Woman:** Someone who is transgender and identifies as a woman.
- **Someone who is Trans and Non-Binary:** Someone who is transgender and identifies as non-binary.
- **Someone who is “Out”:** Someone who is living openly in terms of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, where and when it feels appropriate to them.
- **Outing:** Exposing someone’s LGBTQ+ identity without their permission; can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety or religious or family situations.

Pronouns 101

Type	Name	Example
Feminine	She, her, her	She went to the store. I spoke to her. It was her apple.
Masculine	He, him, his	He went to the store. I spoke to him. It was his apple.
Gender Neutral	They, them, their	They went to the store. I spoke to them. It was their apple.
Gender Neutral	Ze, hir, hirs	Ze went to the store. I spoke to hir. It was hirs apple.



Please note that these are not the only pronouns. There are an infinite number of pronouns as new ones emerge in our language.

PRONOUNS

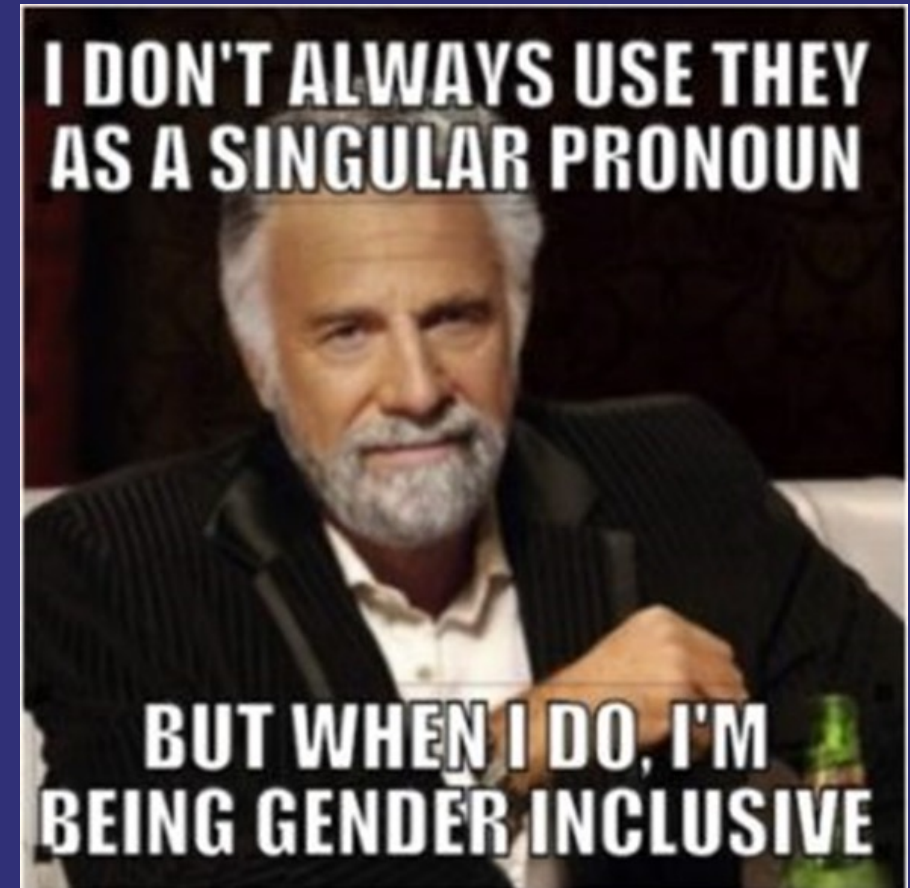
I'm seeing Jeremy this weekend. They're going to take me skateboarding. Then I'm going to go with them to the movies.



Pronouns

Organizations that have recognized the singular use of “they”:

- Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary (2019 Word of the Year)
- Associated Press Stylebook
- Chicago Manual of Style
- American Psychological Association Manual

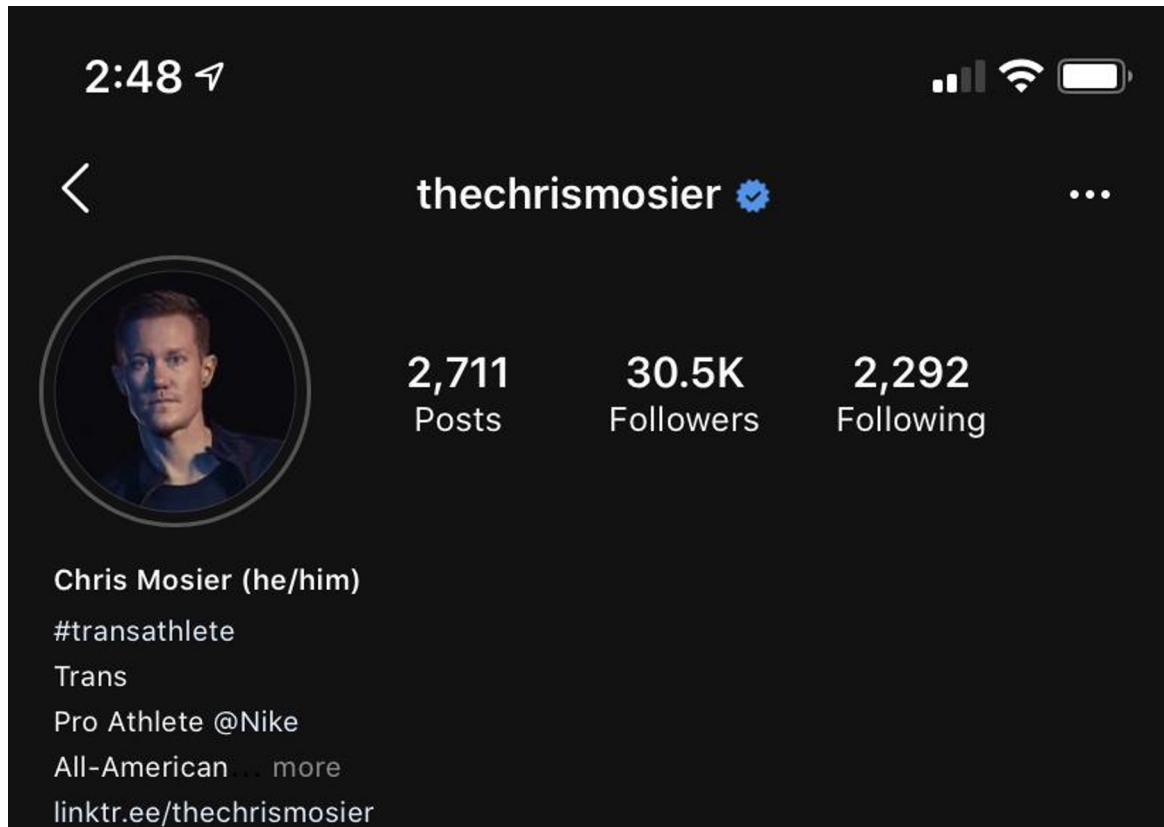


Transition 101

The American Psychological Association defines transition as:

The process of shifting toward a gender role different from that assigned at birth, which can include social transition, such as new names, pronouns and clothing, and medical transition, such as hormone therapy or surgery.

Chris Mosier (he/him)



@thechrismosier

<https://www.thechrismosier.com/>

#transathlete

Transgender

Pro-Athlete @Nike

All-American Athlete, 2X National
Champion and 6X Team USA Athlete
and Professional Speaker - Instagram
post 07/20/20

Instagram Post 1-2: @thechrismosier



Instagram Post 3-4: @thechrismosier



Instagram Post 5-6: @thechrismosier



Instagram Post 7-8: @thechrismosier



Instagram Post 9-10: @thechrismosier



Compassionate Assistance: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Spaces

- Inherent Power in the Helping Relationship
- Who decides it's a safe space?
 - Safety looks different for everyone
 - Further impacted by intersectional identities
- How do you show up in the space?
 - Authentically, open-mindedly, accountably, with humor and forgiveness, and the rest of who you are



Compassionate Assistance - From Welcoming Spaces to Actively Affirming Ones...

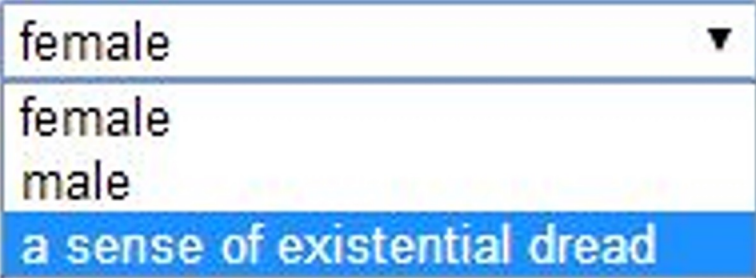
- Consider your interaction(s) with students...do you
 - Ask about preferred name/name you go by
 - Include your own pronouns when introducing yourself
 - Ask about pronouns
- Understand and use language of LGBTQ+ community
 - Research memes and cultural references

When somebody calls you by your birthname



Compassionate Assistance: Knowledge to Support Gender Expansive & Transgender Individuals

- Familiarize yourself with the legalities of Transition in your state
 - Adult? Minor?
 - Government ID (Name & Gender)
 - Birth Certificate (Possible? Surgery Needed?)
 - Name Change (Costs/Fee Waivers)
 - Gender Marker Change
- Familiarize yourself with Federal, State, Local Anti-Discrimination Laws



A screenshot of a dropdown menu. The menu is open, showing four options: "female", "female", "male", and "a sense of existential dread". The "a sense of existential dread" option is highlighted in blue. A small downward-pointing triangle is visible in the top right corner of the dropdown box.

Compassionate Assistance: Knowledge of (Reputable) Resources and Referrals

- GLAAD - LGBTQ Resource List: <https://www.glaad.org/resourcelist>
- The Trevor Project - Resources: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>
- Human Rights Campaign - Resources: <https://www.hrc.org/resources>
- PFLAG: <https://pflag.org/>
- Equality Illinois: <https://www.equalityillinois.us/>
- [Queer Oriented Rural Resource Network \(Illinois Resources\)](#)

Final Reminders

- Gender identity encompasses an inner sense of being.
- Gender identity is often understood before sexual orientation.
- Transsexual is an outdated term.
- Trans/Transgender is an adjective not a noun.
 - **Do:** A transgender person, a trans man, a trans woman, a non-binary person, a genderqueer individual etc.
 - **Don't:** transgendered, a trans, “I would have never known you were trans” etc.
- You are not expected to be an expert but you should be familiar with resources and legitimate organizations and have connections to ensure support.

Find us:

transitionTA.org | ntact-collab@uncc.edu



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U.S. Department of Education

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