

Week 9: Transsexuality and the Medical Community

Transsexual autobiography is tinged by its relationship to the medical establishment, particularly in the U.S., but across the world as well.

Califa's essay explores the history of that relationship, and Serano offers a contemporary critique based on her own experience.

In brief, access to medical technology was predicated on telling doctors and psychologists that one's life was just like the idealized story of the transsexual put forth by doctors like Harry Benjamin in the 1960's. Even today, many trans and gender queer people seeking medical resources are rejected, because they do not fit the traditional mold.

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