

Call for Papers: Special issue on language and trans identities for *Gender and Language*

(<https://journal.equinoxpub.com/GL>)

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Six years after the so-called “Transgender Tipping Point” (Steinmetz 2014), trans people continue to be an intense focus of public attention. Language often takes center stage in these discussions, including but not limited to norms surrounding gendered pronouns, grammatical gender, and the epistemological status and ontological boundaries of gender categories. Changing ideas about gendered language receive attention from trans people and their allies and transphobes alike. Despite dramatic increases in public awareness of and support for trans people, transphobic violence and subjugation persists, and legal efforts to limit the recognition of trans people’s gender identities has intensified over the past few years (Haug 2021, Krishnakumar 2021). Furthermore, “trans visibility” often constructs an image of “gender diversity” that prioritizes white, western, non-disabled/neurotypical, and class-privileged subjectivities (though see Borba 2017; Calder 2020; Davis 2014; Feu’u 2017; Gaudio 2014; Hall 2009; Steele 2019).

Building on Zimman’s (2020) articulation of trans linguistics, we invite submissions for a special issue of *Gender and Language* that will highlight research that addresses the linguistic practices, themes, and issues facing trans and other non-cisgender communities, widely conceived. We welcome engagements with any group whose gender identities or practices diverge from expectations for their assigned sex, and we also welcome engagements with the normative systems that organize trans lives (e.g. analyses of cis people’s cisness). We especially encourage submissions focused on trans people who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), research situated in the Global South, disability-related analyses, and work on languages or varieties other than (standardized) English. Interdisciplinary research is also invited as long as it uses language as a primary domain of analysis (per Bucholtz & Hall 2008).

Potential topics for investigation include:

- Examinations of the construction and/or disruption of normative understandings of gender, including in academic discourse and practice;
- Explorations of the intersections of transness with race, class, disability, and other forms of marginalization;
- Discussions of theoretical and methodological challenges and implications of working with the language of trans speakers and/or signers;
- Considerations of structural and/or interactional transphobia, cissexism, and related processes;
- Community-based participatory or community needs-based approaches and interventions (e.g., in education, medicine, or the legal system);
- Approaches that center trans joy, trans vitality, and gender euphoria.

The editors will review submitted paper proposals and invite authors of selected proposals to submit full papers. Based on the reviews, the editors plan to accept 5-7 papers for publication in this special issue.

Proposal submissions should be sent as a PDF to translinguisticsvolume@gmail.com by **June 30th 2021**. Proposals must not be more than 1 page (with an additional page allowed for figures, examples, and references).

Authors of selected proposals will be invited to submit their full papers, which must be in line with the guidelines of Gender and Language (<https://journal.equinoxpub.com/GL/about/submissions>) by **November 1, 2021**.

If you have an idea that you are not sure is appropriate or would like to workshop, please email any questions and ideas to translinguisticsvolume@gmail.com before the due date and we would love to chat with you further.

References

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