

TYPICALITY AND NEGATION ARE RELATED
Evidence from Discourse on Transgender Identity

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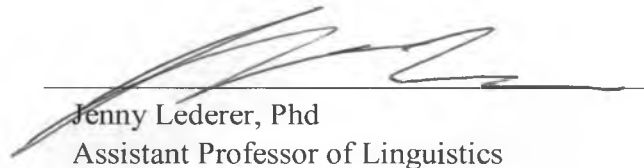
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In
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by


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Spring 2016

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL

I certify that I have read *Typicality and Negation Are Related, Evidence from Discourse on Transgender Identity*, by Emily Jane Goldstein, and that in my opinion this work meets the criteria for approving a thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree Master of Arts in English: Linguistics at San Francisco State University.



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This paper outlines an approach to the study of social categorization from a cognitive perspective. I argue that negative constructions in discourse can serve as a context-specific indicator of the underlying typicality structure in play. Using evidence from personal narratives of transgender identity, negative constructions are proposed as a tool through which a speaker can maintain the typical as a point of reference to describe the atypical, in line with Rosch (1975)'s definition of a *cognitive reference point* as a stimulus other stimuli are seen "in relation to." The implications of these findings, and areas for future research, are discussed.

I certify that the abstract is a correct representation of the contents of this thesis.



Chair, Thesis Committee

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1. Introduction

The study of categorization is fundamental to describing a human perspective of life.

The shape of our mental categories take has a profound effect on the shape our realities take. Decades of research has shown that typicality is a construct of central importance to theories of categorization. In seminal work, Rosch (1975) operationalized typicality in terms of asymmetry of reference, with a typical stimulus serving as a reference points for less typical stimuli. The idea that categories are structured internally around a member who represents the “best example” of the concept (Mervis, Catlin & Rosch, 1976, Sloman, Ahn & Love, 1998), and that the underlying relationship between this prototypical member and other, less typical members, is asymmetrical in terms of reference (Minda & Smith, 2011; Lakoff, 1990) has remained influential to this day. However, understanding of the mechanisms that give rise to typicality has progressed since Rosch’s era, when it was often oversimplified as synonymous with statistical prominence. To the contrary, it has been shown that notions of typicality are not purely perception based, but are sensitive to other contextual phenomenon, like the specific goals associated with the discourse context, and the functional world knowledge of the reasoner. This implies the importance of assessing notions of typicality in context, and by extension, implies the need for methodology that can provide in-context indicators of typicality structure.

It is my claim that such an indicator can be found in specific aspects of the shared semantic structure of the narratives presented in this study. Negative constructions, by virtue of their activation of alternative, incompatible mental spaces (Dancygier, 2012), will be shown to provide a vehicle through which speakers can maintain the typical as a point of reference, even when the characteristics associated with typicality are objectively absent from the experience being described. Atypicality is indicated in discourse through the negation of typicality, as we will see in the examples that follow. This suggests that attention to distributions of negative constructions in discourse can provide evidence of the specific structures of typicality in play in a given context.

The data in this study is drawn from the domain of social categorization. In video narratives of personal identity, young-adult, transgender men describe their self-categorization in the context of their lives and the transgender community. An analysis based on speakers' functional descriptions of typicality will point to the semantic feature +KNOWLEDGE OF GENDER AT A YOUNG AGE (+KGYA), as a point of cognitive reference in this context, with speakers' descriptions suggesting that early knowledge of one's transgender identity is an immutable characteristic of a typical transgender narrative. An alternative analysis of the discourse, founded in the relationship between negative linguistic constructions and typicality structure, will yield a similar outcome, again highlight the salience of +KGYA in judgments of typicality in this context. Across the twenty-two narratives that form the corpus from which the data in this study is drawn, people describe their experience either as knowing, or alternatively, as not knowing, that

they were transgender at a young age. I will argue that this supports negative constructions as an indicator of typicality structure.

The implications of this research therefore might be felt in whatever realm might concern itself with typicality, cutting across a broad swath of social and cognitive sciences. This research also raises the question of the nature of the relationship between negation and typicality. One conclusion is that typicality structure is leading people to represent their experiences either via positive or negative constructions, depending on their own status, an interesting finding in its own right. But, it could also be the case that the use of negation will lead people to infer typicality structure in an otherwise neutral context, a question that warrants further investigation.

Following a discussion of these findings, I will conclude.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This section will provide background on negation and typicality, as they have been described within the literature of cognitive linguistics and cognitive psychology. Section 2.2 will review literature describing asymmetry of reference, as applied to both negation and typicality. Asymmetry of reference can be exemplified in the idea that the typical, by definition, serves as the point which the atypical is understood to be “in relation to.” Stated another way, this means that typical stimuli are asymmetrically referential as compared to atypical stimuli. To demonstrate why negation is an appropriate linguistic

device to index relationships marked by asymmetry of reference, I will adopt the framework of Mental Spaces Theory, in which negation is described in terms of *alternativity*, or the simultaneous activation of multiple mental spaces. Alternativity will be shown to provide a vehicle through which the speaker can register their *epistemic stance*, or their knowledge and beliefs about the world.

Section 2.2 will also review literature describing a similarly asymmetrical structure, that of *cognitive reference points*, indicative of relationships based on typicality. As is the case with negation, typicality structure (and the cognitive reference points that define it), have also been shown to be sensitive to the reasoner's functional knowledge of the world. The literature reviewed here will provide the reader with the relevant background knowledge to interpret the claim that negation is serving as an indicator of the typicality structure operating in the given discourse context.

2.2 Asymmetry of reference

2.2.1 Negation

It is a widely held view that a primary function of negation in discourse is to make salient some contextually relevant presupposition (Givon, 1978; Fauconnier, 1994; Payne, 1997; Dancygier, 2012). Through negation, the salience of the positive alternative is highlighted even though it is not objectively present. As Sweetser (2006) writes: "*Joe left at six* does not necessarily indicate any presupposition that things might have been otherwise, but *Joe didn't leave at six* certainly suggests that someone had a mental

scenario involving him leaving at six.” (313). In this way, a negative statement is referentially tied to its affirmative counterpart, while the same inherently referential relationship does not exist in the opposite direction. This asymmetry of reference is a characteristic of negation that has caught the attention of scholars dating back to the time of Aristotle (Horn, 1989). However, an equally long-standing and well-established view holds that, while negative sentences might be somehow built out of their more primitive, affirmative counterparts, there is no reason to believe that an abstract proposition works the same way. Evidence to the contrary demonstrates that it is possible to represent the same idea using either positive or negative constructions, as the examples from Frege (1919) below illustrate:

- (a) Christ is immortal
- (b) Christ lives forever
- (c) Christ is not immortal
- (d) Christ is mortal
- (e) Christ does not live forever

(ver. 150)

In the examples above, it is unclear which sentence expresses a positive idea as opposed to a negative idea. Taking this line of thinking to the extreme, some have even rejected the existence of negative propositions altogether (Royce, 1917). However, while it may not be fruitful to make claims about the inherence of affirmation and negation in an objective sense, we might, within a given context, be able to answer (or at least ask) questions about the speaker’s motives in choosing a negative versus a positive construction, and the pragmatic outcomes of that choice. Given the documented

relationship between negation and negative sentiment (see Potts, 2011), the pragmatic implications of systematic distributions of negation in the context of social categorization could be significant from both a methodological and applied perspective.

2.2.1.1 Alternativity

Within the framework of Mental Spaces Theory (MST) (Fauconnier, 1997; Fauconnier & Sweetser, 1996), the asymmetry of reference inherent to negation has been conceptualized in terms of alternativity, or the semantics that accompanying the simultaneous activation of two alternative, incompatible mental spaces (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2012; Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014).

Dancygier (2012) defines negation in terms of alternativity as follows:

“The negative particle *not* is...said to set up two alternative spaces, rather than just one: the negative space described in the sentence and its positive alternative.” (69)

To illustrate, consider Fauconnier’s example (1994[1985], (as cited in Dancygier, 2012)):

(1) There is no milk in the fridge.

(69)

By virtue of the negative construction, (1) presupposes the relevance of a context in which there is milk in the fridge. It would be odd to utter (1) in reference to a broken and abandoned fridge that one had come across on a hike across some rarely accessed pastures on the edge of town. For the negative construction to make sense, the positive “alternative” must hold some kind of relevance in the discourse context. How the speaker

interacts with these two alternative spaces in discourse lends negation its function as an indicator of *epistemic stance*.

2.2.1.2 *Epistemic stance*

Dancygier (2012) argues that alternativity gives negation the function of indexing information about the speaker's knowledge and beliefs about the world, by expressing their *epistemic stance* in discourse. Alternativity is fundamentally linked to subjectivity, and thus provides a mechanism through which the speaker's viewpoint can be implicitly encoded into the structure of the statement. As Dancygier notes: "When the alternatives are signaled in the discourse, the argumentative function of negation prevails" (87).

Through negation, a speaker can indicate to their listener that which is considered relevant within a given discourse context, even when it is not objectively present.

Relevance that persists even in absence provides evidence as to the knowledge and beliefs of the speaker. This provides a context in which formal aspects of discourse can provide information about underlying cognitive structure.

2.2.2 Typicality

Similar semantic structure to that of negation has been used to describe typicality, a fundamental cognitive component. We all rely on our sense of what is typical to interpret the world and to make predictions about what is likely to happen. However, the role of typicality long went unnoticed in the theoretical study of categorization, with categories traditionally being defined by a set of necessary and sufficient conditions, equally

representative of all members (see Smith & Medin, 1981). The “classical view” of categories is so named because of its origins in the writings of Aristotle (Ackrill, 1963). It forms the foundation of a long tradition of describing categories via the set of features that characterize their members, a tradition that continues to this day.

Scholars in the 20th century began questioning the idea that every member could be considered equally representative of the category to which they belonged. A category is, after all, a cognitive tool that makes it possible to treat as the same, a set of entities that are in fact, different (Mervis & Rosch, 1981) In an often-quoted section of *Philosophical Investigations* (1953), Wittgenstein asks the reader to consider the category *games* but to “*look and see* whether there is anything common to all,” i.e. a set of necessary and sufficient conditions shared by all members. “—For if you look at them you will not see something that is common to *all*, but similarities, relationships, and a whole series of them at that.” (section 66, pg. 27). Rather than a set of necessary and sufficient conditions amounting to a mental checklist of requirements for category membership, Wittgenstein proposes a *family of resemblances* (see also Rosch & Mervis, 1975) as the structure organizing human categories. He suggests that category members are like family members: some share the same hair color, others share the same nose, while others share a particular disposition, but no two members need be (nor are likely to be) exactly alike. The family of resemblances is coherent because all category members are in effect marked by their relative similarity to an abstract representation of the category: the prototype. Measuring similarity in terms of metaphorical space (Pothos & Wills, 2011;

Voorspoels, Vanpaemel, & Storms, 2011) the prototype occupies a central position within the category, defining where other members lie as well.

2.2.2.1 Cognitive Reference Points

This prototypical member can be thought of as serving as a point of cognitive reference, structuring the category both internally, in terms of its own members, and in relation to other categories. (Davis & Love, 2010). Rosch (1975) defines a *cognitive reference point* as follows (emphasis mine):

“To be a ‘reference point’ within a category, a stimulus must be shown to be one which other stimulus are seen in relation to.” (532)

Rosch operationalizes this definition via two seemingly disparate tasks, one linguistic and the other involving spatial judgments. She demonstrates that people have a tendency to place members who represent “best examples¹” of their categories in the reference position in a sentence completion task and thus are more likely to produce a sentence like “52 is essentially 50” rather than “50 is essentially 52” (with decimal integers serving as “best examples” within the categorical domain of decimals). Additionally, she demonstrates that when asked to represent “psychological distance” as physical distance between a prototypical member and a less-typical co-member, people will systematically judge the less-typical member to be “psychologically” (and thus physically) “closer” to a typical member than the typical member is to the less-typical member. This means that

¹ The “best example” of a category has been widely used to operationalize typicality.

people are likely to judge 52 to be “closer” to 50 than 50 is to 52. Together these results suggest that prototypical members are more strongly associated with atypical members than the reverse, illustrating the asymmetry that characterizes the basic nature of the relationship between the typical and the atypical.

Rosch and colleagues present convincing evidence to support the relevance of *similarity to a prototype* as a mechanism defining human categorization. This, however, fails to address the question of how a feature or combination of features comes to represent the categorical “best example” in the first place. To this point, Mervis & Rosch (1981) argue that human natural categories are non-arbitrary, or perception-based. To illustrate their point, they provide eight potential classes of creatures on Earth, based on binary variation in “coat,” “oral opening,” and “primary mode of locomotion”:

- (a) those with fur and mouths, which move about primarily on foot;
- (b) those with fur and mouths, which move about primarily by flying;
- (c) those with fur and beaks, which move about primarily on foot;
- (d) those with fur and beaks, which move about primarily by flying;
- (e) those with feathers and mouths, which move about primarily on foot;
- (f) those with feathers and mouths, which move about primarily by flying;
- (g) those with feathers and beaks, which move about primarily on foot;
- (h) those with feather and beaks, which move about primarily by flying;

(page 91)

They point to the obvious: that this even distribution of traits does not occur in the real world. To the contrary, just two categories, (a) representing mammals, and (h) representing birds, can account for the vast majority of the total data set meeting the above parameters. The idea that human categorization is arbitrary only makes sense, they argue, in a world of evenly distributed features. In our world, our categories pick out

perceived “clusters of features,” with prototypical members located at the center of these clusters. Prototypical members are thus selected because they are instantiations of a mean distribution of the perceived features associated with the category. This view can be labeled *category centrality* (Sloman, Love, & Ahn, 1998), because the prototypical member represents an average of the salient features of all known category members.

2.2.2.2 Functional knowledge

At issue with the claim that human categories are perception-based is the fact that categorical centrality is not always predictive of what is considered typical (Rips, 1989; Atran (1999)). Rather, contextual factors, like culturally relevant goals and ideals, the reasoner’s familiarity with the category (Barsalou, 1985), and their beliefs about causation (Ahn, Kim, Lassaline, & Dennis, 2000; Lagnado & Sloman, 2004; Rehder & Burnett, 2005), can have a significant effect on judgments of typicality. For example, given the right context, an extreme value on an ideal dimension (in the ideal direction) can predict typicality better than central tendency (Barsalou, 1985; Voorspoels et al. 2011). Illustrating this point, Lynch, Coley, & Medin (2000) found that within the domain of trees, human populations with expert knowledge differed in their judgments of what was typical, as compared to novice populations. For expert populations, best examples of the category were selected based on extreme values (considered ideal by the expert population) on two dimensions: (+) height and (–) weediness. These results provide an example of factors that contribute to typicality, but that are not accounted for

in Rosch et al.'s perception-based description. Rather, this effect has been explained as arising from culturally-specific ideals that form part of the speakers' functional knowledge of the world (Medin and Atran, 1999, Barsalou 1985). Similar results have been reported within the domain of birds (Atran, 1999) and fish (Burnett, Medin, Ross, & Blok, 2005).

Another example of the link between functional knowledge and typicality is Sloman et al. (1998)'s explicit connection between the speakers' beliefs about the mutability of a feature, and that feature's perceived typicality. They describe a feature's salience in typicality judgments as negatively correlated with people's willingness to transform the concept to remove the feature or change its values, while still maintaining the overall coherence of the concept. At the heart of this claim is the idea that coherence is based on *dependency structure*, and that features that form the foundations of logical dependencies are less mutable than features that do not, analogous to the fact that it is easier to remove a book from the top of a stack than the bottom of a stack. A prototypical example of dependency structure is causal relationships, in the sense that effects are dependent upon their causes. Temporal dependency structure, a defining structural characteristic of narrative (Labov & Waletzky, 1967) represents another example.

Sloman et. al (1998) operationalized mutability via judgments along four dimensions: surprise, ease-of-imagining, goodness of example, and similarity-to-an-ideal. The

mutability of the feature *grows on trees* within the category *apples* is thus measured in terms of answers to the questions:

- How surprised would you be to encounter a real apple that does not grow on trees?
- How easily can you imagine a real apple that does not grow on trees?
- How good an example of an apple would you consider an apple that does not ever grow on trees?
- How similar is an apple that doesn't grow on trees to an ideal apple?

In contrast, *category centrality* indicative of the “cluster of features” approach is measured in terms of questions such as:

- What percentage of apples grow on trees?

(195)

Implicit in the differentiation of typicality and categorical centrality is the acknowledgement that it is not simple to identify the parameters constraining the judgments of similarity that produce typicality structure (Medin & Murphy, 1985). To the contrary, the criteria upon which judgments of similarity are based is much more context-dependent than the perception based view suggests (Barsalou, 1987).

Empirically documented variability in the criteria by which typicality is assigned has given rise to questions as to whether a description of a uniform cognitive structure, applicable to all concepts regardless of context, is worth pursuing (Weiskopf, 2009; Machery, 2005). Rather, perhaps a theoretical flaw lies in the assumption that, to be valid, theories elaborating on the mechanisms that produce typicality must be able to

account for every instance of typicality effects in every situation, as compared to the performance of competing theories. Weiskopf argues instead for the “plurality of concepts,” maintaining that concepts can potentially be represented via a variety of different structures, depending on the context. But this raises the question of how, outside of an experimental paradigm like Rosch’s (1975), can the factors contributing to typicality in a given context be identified? My claim is that, in the context of the discourse presented in this study, negative constructions can serve as a tool towards this end.

2.3 Summary

Section 2 has provided a structural description of both negation and typicality in terms of asymmetry of reference. In both cases, one element of the binary (affirmation and typicality respectively) is described as asymmetrically referential in relation to the other element (negation and atypicality). Additionally, in both cases, this structure is considered sensitive to functional knowledge about the world. The analysis that follows will support the claim that there is a correlation between negative constructions and typicality structure, allowing the distribution of negative constructions to serve as a source of evidence as to the context-specific notions of typicality that are at play.

3. Methodology

3.1 Introduction

In this paper, I argue for a methodological approach to discourse that connects linguistic phenomenon to psychological theory. Using cognitive psychology as a basis for describing the semantics of natural language is not a recent innovation. Rather, Rosch's work prefigured the most important developments in the study of linguistics from a cognitive perspective (Lakoff, 1990). Also well-established is the recognition within the field of discourse analysis of the relevance of cognitive theory. For example, Teun van Dijk has devoted much attention to the greater descriptive potential of Critical Discourse Analysis (van Dijk, 1993) when combined with cognitive theory (van Dijk, 1976, 1977). He describes a triangle that connects discourse, cognition, and society, suggesting that one cannot be fully understood without attending to the others.

3.2 Description of the data

The data used in this study consists of a corpus of 22 videos narratives of personal transgender identity, uploaded to YouTube between 2011 and 2015 and transcribed between the fall of 2014 to the spring of 2016. The examples presented here are excerpted from the personal narratives of individuals who self-identifying as transgender men. Line numbers reference the complete transcript. For the complete transcript, see Appendix A.

3.3. Control of Topic

Within the field of discourse analysis, researcher seek to describe the underlying structure of talk and text, with the ultimate aim of explicating aspects of human society and human cognition. Within this tradition, it is useful to look not only at what is said but what is not said, and how the topic is selected (van Dijk, 1993). It is the nature of negation that many more negative descriptions will correctly apply to any given situation than affirmation descriptions. Thus, if many speakers are describing their experience via the stated absence of a particular feature, it raised the question of how that topic is being selected as relevant to the discourse context.

3.3 Summary

This section has provided the necessary background to the analyses presented in the following section. A basic assumption upon which this study relies, namely that the data is an appropriate source of evidence to support the claims, itself implies a particular methodological perspective that maintains linguistic data, and the semantics of natural language, as intricately linked with the theories of cognitive psychology (Jackendoff, 1983). It is from this perspective that the current study was undertaken.

4. Data Analysis and Presentation

4.1 Introduction

The data presented in this section will provide evidence that a relationship exists between negation and typicality, allowing negation to serve as an indicator of the typicality

structure that is at play in this discourse context. Section 4.2 presents an analysis based upon people's descriptions of their functional understanding of what is typical in this context. It will make use of Sloman et al.'s measures of immutability (surprise, ease-of-imagining, goodness of example, and similarity-to-an-ideal), along with speakers' explicit descriptions of typicality in this context, to illustrate the salience of the semantic feature +/-KGYA.

Section 4.3 will provide an alternative analysis of typicality in this context, operationalized in terms of asymmetry of reference. The asymmetry of reference associated with typicality will be shown to be indexed in the form of negative constructions, used primarily by speakers who represent themselves as -KGYA. The data will illustrate how this use of negation allows the speaker to maintain the typical as a point of reference, whether or not typical features are representative of the speaker's experience. In this way, typical features remain consistently salient across narratives in the discourse context. This supports Dancygier (2012)'s analysis of negation as indexing the speaker's *epistemic stance*, as it is through knowledge of the context-specific typicality structure of the category *transgender* that speakers select salient features of the typical narrative for description, leading speakers who are not "typical" to describe themselves in terms of what is absent.

4.2: Typicality: a functional approach

The examples presented here will support the claim that people within this speech community perceive +KGYA to be a highly salient feature in typicality judgments surrounding the *transgender* social category. This claim is based on evidence of +KGYA’s immutability (Sloman et al., 1998) in the context of the typical narrative of transgender identity. Example 1 is an excerpt from a 2014 video “How I did NOT know I was trans:),” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. In it, he describes his understanding of what constitutes a “typical trans storyline” (line 1750).

Example 1

1745 What I wanted to talk about in this video is
 1746 um
 1747 I guess
 1748 uhh
 1749 the idea of a trans narrative
 1750 um that sort of typical trans storyline we all
 1751 we all come across
 1752 at one point or the other
 ...
 1762 you know
 1763 I knew I was trans when I was two
 1764 and I’ve just always been a boy
 1765 and that’s who I am
 ...
 1903 that sort of like
 1904 yeah I knew when I was very young
 1905 yes I was
 1906 um puberty was a shock
 1907 I feel intense dysphoria about my entire body
 1908 and whatever

The speaker acknowledges the existence of a “typical trans narrative” (line 1750), and defines it as containing the following semantic points: “I knew I was trans when I was two” (line 1763), “I’ve just always been a boy” (line 1764), “I knew when I was very

young” (line 1904), “puberty was a shock” (line 1906), and “I feel intense dysphoria about my entire body” (line 1907). Of these five points, three relate directly to +KGYA (“I knew...when I was two,” “I’ve always been a boy,” and “I knew when I was very young”), and one relates indirectly to +KGYA (“puberty was a shock”).

Also compelling is the speaker’s description of what, in his view, assigns his own personal narrative its atypical status. After a description of his atypical (-KGYA) personal narrative (see example 7B), the speaker continues with an assessment of the relationship between the two narratives:

Example 1 (cont.)

2069 as you can see with my
 2070 my story
 2071 there is some overlap
 2072 to the traditional trans narrative
 2073 if you add in
 2074 like a little bit more clarity
 2075 or a little bit more confidence
 2076 about the gender that I felt I should have been
 2077 like
 2078 if I’d been like
 2079 and this is all because I thought I should be a boy
 2080 then it sounds like the traditional
 2081 sort of
 2082 transgender narrative
 2083 um I mean
 2084 to be perfectly honestly
 2085 like
 2086 I had no idea where any of this was coming from

The speaker acknowledges “overlap” (line 2071) between his personal narrative and the “traditional trans narrative” as he has defined it. In his view, what *would* make his narrative typical is if “you add in like, a bit more clarity, or a bit more confidence about the gender I felt I should have been...if I’d been like, ‘and this is all because I thought I

should be a boy,’ then it sounds like the traditional sort of transgender narrative” (line 2073-2082). In other words, the thing differentiating the speaker’s narrative from a typical one is the absence of KGYA, highlighting the features immutability in a typical transgender narrative. The speaker goes on to describe how the absence of the feature +KGYA in his personal narrative has affected his self-categorization:

Example 1 (cont.)

2167	like even when I started testosterone
2168	I identified as trans
2169	but I think
2170	because I didn’t have that trans-narrative
2171	um I guess
2172	I almost
2173	didn’t allow myself to believe I was legitimately trans
2174	um
2175	and that caused a lot of confusion

While the speaker “identified as trans,” (line 2168), he struggled to see himself as “legitimately trans” (line 2173), specifically because of his –KGYA personal narrative (“because I don’t have that trans-narrative” (line 2170). Framing +KGYA as a legitimizing feature of transgender identity highlights its immutability within this context. Recall that Sloman et al. define immutability as the extent to which a concept cannot be transformed to remove a particular feature while still maintaining overall coherence, as indicative of typicality. In the excerpt above, the speaker seems to struggle with this very operation, or how to reconcile his concept of himself as a transgender person with the lack of a feature (+KGYA) that seems integral to the coherence of the concept, and thus to its legitimacy. The description offered by the speaker above seems to suggest that a transgender person who is –KGYA is difficult to imagine, dissimilar to the ideal, and a

poor example of the category. In the context of Sloman et. al's measures of typicality, this provides strong support for +KGYA as typical in this context.

Example 2 is an excerpt from a 2011 YouTube video titled "Fake Transgender," (see also Example 6A) narrated by young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. In it, the speaker describes his perceptions of a "typical story of someone who's transgendered" (lines 4787-4789).

Example 2

4786 it's a really
 4787 typical story of
 4788 um
 4789 someone who's transgendered
 4790 it seems like
 4791 based on other videos I've watched
 4792 and research I've done
 4793 its like
 4794 when you are
 4795 a transgendered F to M
 4796 it's just something that's with you your entire life
 4797 you're born that way
 4798 you know every step along the way that you're different
 4799 something's weird

The speaker identifies a "typical story" as containing the following points:" it's just something that's with you your entire life" (line 4796), "you're born that way" (line 4797), "you know every step along the way you're different" (line 4798), and "[you know] something's weird" (line 4799). Of these four point, two relate directly to +KGYA ("you know every step along the way you're different," "[you know] something's weird") and two relate indirectly to +KGYA ("It's just something that's with you your entire life," "you're born that way"). The speaker goes on to consider narratives

that are –KGYA, describing how they have led him to question the coherence of his concept of transgenderism as he described it above.

Example 2 (cont.)

4813 and sometimes I hear stories
 4814 from other trans guys
 4815 that's like
 4816 or just from people who watch my videos
 4817 that are like
 4818 I'm exploring the possibility that I might be trans
 4819 or
 4820 I'm trans
 4821 but I didn't know like all my life
 4822 as you did
 4823 like
 4824 I was kind of a normal
 4825 more like normal little girl
 4826 and then I just think
 4827 um
 4828 you know
 4829 how much variability is there
 4830 like what is
 4831 what do you think is
 4832 more common
 4833 and why do you think
 4834 there's such
 4835 a diversity of different experiences within the trans thing
 4836 because
 4837 to me it seems like
 4838 I don't know
 4839 it seems like
 4840 there's just this typical way
 4841 and then there's these non-typical ways
 ...
 4864 so I was just kind of curious
 4865 if you can answer that question
 4866 down below
 4867 about
 4868 like uh
 4869 if you had a typical-experience
 4870 a non-typical experience
 4871 um
 4872 and you know
 4873 when you figured out that you were trans

4874 because
 4875 it's not
 4876 it's like
 4877 there's a question in the human life
 4878 which is
 4879 who am I
 4880 but everybody knows
 4881 what they are
 4882 it's like you're discovering who you are
 4883 but what you are
 4884 you kinda of know
 4885 you know you're trans
 4886 not like
 4887 I think I'm trans
 4888 how does that work
 4889 how does that happen
 4890 please help me understand

In spite of his previous confidence in his concept of transgenderism, the speaker acknowledges that hearing of -KGYA narratives of transgender identity has made him question "how much variability is there" (line 4829), and "what...is more common" (line 4831-4832). His overall sense of confusion ("please help me understand" (line 4890)) suggests that he has difficulty maintaining coherence in his concept of transgenderism in the absence of +KGYA as a feature, again pointing to the immutability, and by extension typicality, of +KGYA. The speaker seems to be asking the same question that Sloman et al. (1998) asked to measure categorical centrality: "What percentage of transgender people are +KGYA?" although his question of "why there's such a diversity of different experiences within the trans thing" (line 4833-4835) seems to already assume that variability exists. Despite his explicit uncertainty as to the categorical centrality of +KGYA, he seems nevertheless confident that +KGYA characterizes the "typical" (line

4840, 4869) as opposed to the “non-typical” (line 4841, 4870), again providing evidence of its weight in judgments of typicality.

Example 3 is an excerpt from a 2015 YouTube video titled “I didn’t know I was transgender,” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. In it, the speaker describes his perception of typicality in this context.

Example 3

5818 The whole transgender thing
 5819 there’s so many trans men out there
 5820 that talk about their journey
 5821 to discovering who they were
 5822 well
 5823 a lot of them say like
 5824 they knew
 5825 from a very young age
 5826 like even before they knew what transgender was
 5827 and for the longest time
 5828 whenever I watched those videos
 5829 for the longest time
 5830 I thought I didn’t
 5831 because I didn’t relate to that
 5832 that it was invalid
 5833 that I was invalid
 5834 and that
 5835 I couldn’t be transgender because
 5836 I didn’t feel how they felt
 5837 even though every person’s different
 5838 it’s just so many trans men said
 5839 I knew since I was from a young age
 5840 that I was different
 5841 that I couldn’t live as a girl
 5842 blah blah
 5843 but that was not the case for me

Unlike the speaker in the previous two examples, the speaker in Example 8 does not refer directly to the structure of typicality in the transgender context. However, he alludes to it as he highlights his perception of +KGYA as categorically central (“there’s so many trans

men out there” (line 5819), “a lot of them say they knew from a very young age” (lines 5823-5825), “it’s just so many trans men said I knew since I was from a young age” (lines 5838-5839)). He also reports a similar experience to the speaker in Example 1, of struggling with feelings of illegitimacy specifically because of his –KGYA status (“I thought...that I was invalid and that I couldn’t be transgender” (lines 5833-5835)). His statements indicate immutability as defined by Sloman et al.’s measure, ease-of-imagining, reflected in his initial difficulty imagining himself as legitimately transgender man, given that +KGYA is not a feature of his personal narrative. This again points to the to +KGYA as indicative of a typical experience.

Example 4 provides another example of +KGYA being referenced as typical within the current context. It is an excerpt from a 2015 video title “Transgender Today: I Didn’t Always Know,” (see also Example 10B) narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 4

5764 not all trans people are the same
 5765 and not all trans narratives are the same
 5766 the media today
 5767 tends to paint this
 5768 portrait of trans people
 5769 and it tends to paint
 5770 every trans person as being the same
 5771 and having the same story
 5772 and thinking the same thoughts
 ...
 5794 I get the question all the time
 5795 did you always know
 5796 and when I answer that question with no
 5797 people are floored
 5798 because the narrative that they have in their heads is that

5799 I always knew I was in the “wrong body”
 5800 and I always had a feeling that I was “different”
 5801 but really that’s not true

As in the previous three examples, in the excerpt above, the speaker highlights +KGYA as particularly salient to the transgender concept in this context. He refers to “the narrative that [people] have in their heads,” (line 5798) a description that is reminiscent of the abstract instantiation of the concept, or the “best-example”. The speaker describes the narrative as containing two points “I always knew I was in the ‘wrong body’” (line 5799), and “I always has a feeling that I was ‘different,’” both directly related to +KGYA. The speaker describes the reaction when he shares his –KGYA narrative, as “people are floored” (line 5797), implying that people are surprised to encounter a transgender person who is not +KGYA, in line with what we expect of a typical feature based on the measures provided by Sloman et al. The presumption of a +KGYA narrative (“...the narrative that they have in their heads” (line 5798)) also implies that in the speaker’s view, it is easier for people to imagine a transgender person who is +KGYA as compared to one who is -KGYA, again indicating the immutability of that feature, and its typical status in this context.

Example 5 provides a final example of a functional description of typicality within the category transgender. It is an excerpt from a 2011 video titled “Traditional vs. Non-Traditional Trans Narrative (video response to Forest),” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man, who is responding directly to the questions posed by the speaker in Example 2.

Example 5

4891 you brought up the point that
4892 there seems to be so much variance between
4893 trans guys and when they start identifying as trans
4894 and why there are some trans men like yourself
4895 who know from
4896 the time they're a little kid that
4897 they're trans
4898 and then they're
4899 that they are trans
4900 and then there's
4901 other trans guys who
4902 go through a period
4903 much later in life
4904 in their early twenties
4905 thirties
4906 fifties
4907 what have you
4908 and are questioning it and saying
4909 I think I might be trans
4910 or
4911 they come to terms with
4912 their trans identity
4913 and are confident that they're trans
4914 but
4915 acknowledge that
4916 they did not know that
4917 from the time they were a little kid
4918 which is where I fall
4919 on the spectrum
4920 um
4921 and
4922 it's something that
4923 I really struggled with
4924 when I first realized that
4925 I was struggling with my gender identity
4926 I
4927 I think I was under the impression
4928 that the traditional trans story
4929 was the only trans story
4930 and so
4931 because that did not
4932 immediately resonate with me
4933 um
4934 it made it really hard for me to

4935 make sense of
 4936 who I really am
 4937 and to
 4938 um
 4939 feel sure and confident
 4940 um, I was terrified that
 4941 I would be viewed as
 4942 fake
 4943 or
 4944 um
 4945 not the real deal

The speaker in Example 10 refers to the “traditional trans story,” (line 4928) in which the person “knows from the time they’re a little kid that they’re trans” (line 4895-4896), (+KGYA) something that he once thought “was the only trans story” (line 4929), suggesting its perceived typicality. Again, there is evidence of the perception of +KGYA as an immutable feature of transgender narrative, with the speaker reporting that a – KGYA experience led to confusion about his identity (“it made it it really hard for me to make sense of who I am” (line 4934-4936)), and fear that he would be seen as illegitimate (“I was terrified that I would be viewed as fake, or not the real deal” (lines 4940-4945)).

The examples presented in this section have provided a functional description of typicality this context of transgender identity. Together they point to +KGYA as a feature of particular prominence. The section that follows will produce a similar conclusion, but via an alternative hypothesis, which relies on negative constructions as an indicator of the underlying typicality structure of the discourse context.

4.3 Typicality: a formal approach

The following examples will provide evidence of asymmetry of reference in discourse, and argue that it marks a cognitive reference point, as defined by Rosch (1975), with negation indexing typicality structure. Through the alternativity of negation (Dancygier, 2012), this pattern satisfies the formal definition of a cognitive reference point as a stimulus that other stimuli are seen “in relation to,”. Each of the following examples will present a narrative (Narrative A), in which a person describes their experience using affirmation, along side a second narrative (Narrative B) in which a person describes their experience as the negative counterpart of Narrative A. In each case, this contrast is drawn along the dimension (+/-)KGYA. On the basis of this formal criteria, it is possible to classify narratives that are +KGYA as cognitive reference points, providing evidence about typicality in this context and the functional knowledge underlying those beliefs. This analysis produces a result in alignment with the analysis presented in the previous section.

Example 6 presents data illustrating the asymmetry of reference that will characterize every example presented in this section. Example 6A is an excerpt from a 2011 YouTube video titled “Fake Transgender,” narrated by young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. Example 6B is an excerpt from a 2015 YouTube video titled “FTM Edition: How I “Knew” I Was Trans,” narrated by a different young-adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 6A

4770 um
 4771 when I think of my experience
 4772 as a transgendered
 4773 female to male
 4774 it was something
 4775 that was very weird to know
 4776 that I had
 4777 inside of me
 4778 when I was little
 4779 you know
 4780 I knew I was a boy

Example 6B

5748 so
 5749 this is my experience
 5750 you wanna know how I knew
 5751 I'll tell you
 5752 **I didn't**
 5753 **I didn't** know
 5754 I was trans
 5755 I am **not** one of those
 5756 lucky people
 5757 who knew since they were
 5758 very young
 5759 that something was different
 5760 that they were special
 5761 that something was wrong
 5762 **no**
 5763 so I **didn't** know

In Example 6A, the speaker describes the experience of knowing since he was “little” (line 4778) that he “was a boy” (line 4780), elaborating that it was “something that was very weird to know that I had inside of me,” (lines 4774-4777). Compare this to Example 6B, in which the speaker also references a similar experience of having knowledge “since they were very young that something was different, that they were special,” (lines 5757-5760). However, the speaker in 6B makes it clear that the narrative he is referencing in these lines is not representative of his own, as he is “not one of those lucky people” (line 5755-5756) who can claim this experience. Though not representative, the speaker nevertheless describes his personal narrative “in relation to” the narrative presented in 6A.

Examples 6A and 6B illustrate the asymmetry of reference characteristic of the relationship between typical and atypical category members: both speakers reference a “typical” narrative in order to describe themselves, in spite of the fact that the “typical” narrative, is only claimed to be representative of the speaker in Example 6A. Within the semantic structure of negation, +KGYA is being “placed” by the speaker in the reference position, much like the “best examples” were placed in the reference position of Rosch’s linguistic and spatial tasks. While in Example 6A, the speaker responds to the question of how he knew he was transgender by affirming what he knew (“I knew I was a boy” (line 4780), the speaker in Example 6B, atypical in this context, responds to the question of how he knew by describing what he *didn’t* know (“I didn’t, I didn’t know I was trans. I’m not one of those lucky people...no I didn’t know” (lines 5752-5763)) and what he is *not* (“I’m not one of those lucky people “ line 5755). The speaker’s use of negation, allows him to reference the typical, even in its absence.

The two speakers in Example 6 are able to use similar language to describe their differing experiences, because one is describing what happened, and the other is describing what did not happen. In this way, as predicted by Dancygier (2012), negation is being used to reflect the speakers’ epistemic knowledge that KGYA is relevant within the broader discourse context, whether it is characteristic of the experience being described in the local context or not.

The data in Example 7 will illustrate the same pattern as Example 6 above. Example 7A is an excerpt from a 2014 YouTube video titled “FTM-How I knew I was Trans,” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. Example 7B is an excerpt from a 2014 video “How I did NOT know I was trans:),” narrated by a different, young-adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 7A

6123 yeah
 6124 how I knew I was trans
 ...
 6131 I like to say that I
 6132 always knew
 6133 when I was little
 6134 like
 6135 when I was a little boy
 6136 I was a little boy

Example 7B

5025 I
 5026 have been thinking so much
 5027 about um
 5028 not only how I know I’m trans
 5029 but
 5030 why I did **not** know before
 5031 so for that reason
 5032 I’m making this video
 5033 how I
 5034 did **not** know
 5035 that I was trans
 5036 before
 ...
 5043 so
 5044 why did I **not**
 5045 realize I was trans earlier
 ...
 5062 when I was younger
 5063 like a kid
 5064 or
 5065 a teenager
 5066 I **didn’t** think about
 5067 being a boy
 5068 I’m **not** one of those people
 5069 who from a young age
 5070 was like
 5071 oh
 5072 I’m actually a boy

5073 that **didn't** happen for me

In Example 7A, the speaker affirms that he “always knew” (line 6132) from the time he “was little” (line 6133) that he was transgender. He describes himself in childhood by stating: “I was a little boy” (line 6136). In Example 7B, the speaker references a similar experience, here attributed to “those people, who from a young age was like ‘oh, I’m actually a boy’” (lines 5068-5072). However, as was the case in the Example 6B, the speaker in Example 7B makes it clear that the experience of “those people” is not representative of his personal experience. Although it is not representative, he nevertheless characterizes his own narrative “in relation to” it.

As in Example 6, Examples 7 illustrates negation’s role in indexing typicality in the discourse. While the speaker in example 7A represents his experience through affirmation, the speaker in 7B instead describes what he did *not* know (line 5030, 5034), what he did *not* realize (line 5044-5045), what he did *not* think about (line 5066-5067), what his is *not* (line 5068) and what *didn't* happen for him (line 5073). It is possible for very similar language to be used to describe different experiences, precisely because one speaker is describing what was, and one speaker is describing what was not. The speaker in Example 7B acknowledges, as he concludes his video, that the narrative he has produced contains little positive description of his actual experience:

Example 7B (cont.)

5682 um

5683 anyway

5684 I think that

5685 that's all that I wanted to say
 5686 I'll make another video about
 5687 sort of
 5688 the more positive aspect of it
 5689 like
 5690 not why I didn't realize I was trans
 5691 but how I do
 5692 know I'm trans
 5693 so stay tuned
 5694 thanks for watching
 5695 bye

In the excerpt above, the speaker expresses an awareness of two different “aspect[s]” (line 5688) of personal transgender identity that he could potentially describe, the “why I didn't realize I was trans” (line 5690) aspect, and the “more positive” (line 5688) “how I do know I'm trans” (line 5691-5692) aspect. His representation of his personal narrative via the former, rather than the latter again highlights the to a tendency to negate the typical, rather than affirm the atypical, or stated another way, it points to a relationship between typicality structure and negative constructions.

The data presented in Example 8 will provide another illustration of the pattern documented in Examples 6 and 7. Example 8A is an excerpt from a 2013 YouTube video titled “How I knew I was transgender,” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. Example 8B is an excerpt from a 2011 YouTube video title “How I knew I was trans: My Story and the Trans Narrative,” narrated by a different young adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 8A

952 um
 953 from about age four
 954 I think
 955 I can remember
 956 having this awareness of being a boy
 957 and just not understanding
 958 why people were treating me differently
 959 to other boys

Example 8B

1916 when I was a kid
 1917 I mean
 1918 I **didn't**
 1919 I **didn't** think I was a boy
 1920 you know
 1921 like I **didn't** have any sort of
 1922 confusion growing up
 1923 where I was like
 1924 no I'm a boy
 1925 why is everybody calling me a girl
 1926 or **any** experiences like that

The speaker in example 8A reports an “awareness of being a boy,” along with a sense of confusion at not being treated like one (lines 956-959). The speaker in 8B references a similar experience of “confusion growing up, where I was like no I’m a boy, why is everybody calling me a girl” (lines 1922-1925). However, as was the case in the previous example, the similarity in language does not point to similar experiences. Rather, as in the previous examples, the speaker in Example 8A refers to what happened, while the speaker in Example 8B refers to similar events, but only to note that in his personal experience, they did not happen. In this way, Example 8A again demonstrates that the semantic feature +KGYA satisfies the definition of a cognitive reference point, because other stimuli are being described “in relation to” this characteristic.

As was the case in the previous example, Example 8B again shows negation being used as a means through which the typical is referenced in both typical and atypical cases.

While the speaker in Example 8A affirms his “awareness” (line 956), the speaker in 8B

describes himself in terms of what he didn't think (line 1918-1919) and experiences he didn't have (lines 1921-1926), again referencing the typical by negating it in its absence.

Example 9A is an excerpt from a 2014 video titled "FTM how I knew I was transgender," narrated by a young adult, self-identifying transgender man. Narrative 9B is an excerpt from a 2013 YouTube video titled "I Didn't Know I Was Trans!" narrated by a different young adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 9A

780 ok so
781 its best to start at the beginning
782 when I was four years old
783 um
784 was when I had my
785 sort of
786 earliest memory of
787 knowing I was male

Example 9B

2351 so
2352 how did I know I was transgender
2353 pretty much
2354 I decided to go about this topic
2355 in a way that might be a little different
2356 umm
2357 its
2358 really going to be called
2359 I **didn't** know I was transgender
2360 ok
2361 I was **not** one of the
2362 umm
2363 I'm gonna say
2364 I consider lucky or
2365 I guess
2366 well-knowledged
2367 people
2368 who knew at the age of three
2369 or four
2370 or five or six
2371 that they were not
2372 the gender that they were born at

As in the previous three examples, in Example 9A, the speaker's "earliest memory of knowing" (line 786-787) is represented with affirmative constructions. And as before,

the speaker in 9B offers a similar description of knowing very early in childhood that “that they were not the gender they were born at,” (line 2371-2372). As was the case in Example 6B, 7B, and 8B, the so-described experience in 9B is represented as explicitly not characteristic of the speaker’s experience. The same correlation can be seen between negation and asymmetry in lines (2359) and (2361). Once again, we see the speakers understanding of typicality in this context indexed in the discourse with negative constructions.

Example 10 will provide a final example of a formal approach to typicality within this context, defined by asymmetry of reference, and marked by the relationship between negation and typicality structure. Example 10A is an excerpt from a 2012 YouTube Video titled “How I knew I was Trans,” narrated by a young-adult, self-identifying transgender man. Example 10B is an excerpt from a 2015 YouTube video “Transgender Today: I Didn’t Always Know,” narrated by a different young-adult, self-identifying transgender man.

Example 10A

4678 being trans its like
 4679 well you
 4680 you’re in the wrong body
 4681 you’re gonna know that from a young age
 4682 and I guess
 4683 I like
 4684 I didn’t really realize that
 4685 I was so different
 4686 I just thought
 4687 I was one of the lads

Example 10B

5802 and um
 5803 as a five-year-old
 5804 I **didn’t** look inside myself and think
 5805 I am in the wrong body
 5806 because
 5807 I was five
 5808 I just **didn’t** have
 5809 that self awareness
 5810 and I **wasn’t** growing up in a place that
 5811 I was able to have that self awareness
 5812 and its great when people do have that
 5813 but it’s also important to know
 5814 that **not** all trans people have that

5815 and **not** every trans person
 5816 has to be this way
 5817 in order to be trans

Example 10A and 10B, show a pattern similar to that of Examples 6-9. While the speaker in Example 10A affirms that “being trans, it’s like, you’re in the wrong body, you’re going to know that from a young age” (lines 4678-4681), the speaker in 10B uses very similar language to communicate that this was not his experience (“I didn’t look inside myself and think ‘I am in the wrong body’” (lines 5804-5805)).

4.4 Summary

The analysis in this section supports the claim of negation serving as an indicator of context-specific knowledge about typicality. Section 4.2 demonstrated the typicality of +KGYA narratives via speaker’s descriptions of their functional understanding of what is typical in this context. Section 4.3 demonstrated that the structure of negation provides a vehicle through which the speaker can index this asymmetry of reference that characterizes relationships based on typicality structure, maintaining the typical as a point of reference to describe the atypical. Together, the analysis presented here suggests alignment between the outcomes of these two modes of inquiry: they both point to +KGYA as particularly salient to typicality decisions in this context. This supports the claim that negative constructions can serve as an indicator of the typicality structure that underlies the semantics of discourse.

The implications of these results are discussed below.

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

Rosch called the conclusions of her 1975 study “simultaneously substantive and methodological,” (544) and the same can be said about the current study. The results offer insight into the context-specific structure of typicality as it relates to the concept of transgenderism, as well as providing support for negation, and more broadly for analysis of discourse in the study of cognitive categorization. The findings, their implications, and future directions are discussed below, followed by a summary.

5.2 Discussion of findings

Section 4.2 provides descriptions of people’s functional understanding of what is typical in this context, highlighting +KGYA as a highly salient feature. The examples illustrate the perceived typicality of +KGYA via the features immutability, or people’s apparent difficulty in transforming their concept of transgenderism to represent this feature with an atypical (-) value, while maintaining the overall coherence.

The analysis in section 4.3 supports the claim that the distribution of negative vs. affirmative constructions relating to the semantic dimension KGYA is serving as an indicator of +KGYA narratives’ status as a cognitive reference point within the category transgender. Furthermore, the examples demonstrated that negation is serving as a vehicle for the asymmetry of reference that defines a cognitive reference point, and by extension, describes typicality in this context. Typical speakers tended to describe their

experience in terms of what did happen, and atypical speakers tended to describe their experience in terms of what did not happen. It is precisely because of this tendency to negate the typical, rather than affirm the atypical, that typical and atypical speakers are able to use very similar language to describe different experiences, thereby maintaining the typical as a point of reference that other narratives are described “in relation to.”

5.3 Implications for practice

This research suggests that negation may be able to serve as an indicator of asymmetry of reference as it relates to typicality, providing researchers and clinicians with evidence about the underlying typicality structure in specific discourse contexts. This is particularly valuable given evidence that concepts are not uniform in structure, implying the need to evaluate them in context, and not only in controlled lab settings. Although typicality is openly discussed in this context, it is likely that in other contexts, notions about what is typical may not be so explicitly spelled out. In such a situation, other indicators of typicality within discourse could be valuable.

However, the uncontrolled nature of this study means that certain ambiguities remain, like the exact nature of the mechanisms connecting negation and typicality. One plausible possibility is that socially-shared notions about typicality are prompting people toward semantic structures that favor negative constructions to describe –KGYA narratives. However, there is also the possibility that the relationship could function in the other direction as well, and that negative constructions in the right context could lead people to

make inferences about the underlying typicality structure. If this is the case, it could provide insight into a mechanism through which typicality is socially communicated and maintained, by creating a discourse environment in which the typical will always exceed the atypical in its frequency of instantiation (Barsalou, 1985), leading to the perception of greater and greater typicality for the already typical, regardless of the central tendency of the category. Given the qualitative and correlational nature of this study, it is impossible to say if this is the case, but if it is, it could have implications for critical theory, public policy, marketing, pedagogy, and clinical practice.

5.4 Areas for future research

The current study suggests several paths of relevant future inquiry. The first, while theoretically plausible that the same pragmatic tendencies described here might exist in other contexts, it is necessary to undertake work to demonstrate the correlation between negation and typicality structure in other contexts before making claims as to the generalizability of these results.

Furthermore, the result of this study could additionally be clarified and elaborated upon through careful empirical testing of the exact nature of the relationship between negation and typicality. An experimental paradigm could help clarify the direction of the relationship and thus, the implications of the results. This is generally in keeping with an approach to research in the social realm that involves an interplay between contextual data, and theoretically related, manipulated data produced in a lab environment.

5.5 Conclusion

To understand the nature of human categorization is to shed light on the cognitive landscape in which we dwell. The data presented here has shown that Rosch (1975)'s definition of a cognitive reference point as "a stimulus that other stimuli are seen in relation to," is applicable to +KGYA narratives in the context of the data presented here. What's more, the data has demonstrated that, in this context, negation serves as a tool through which typicality is indexed in the discourse.

As stated before, the implications of the findings presented here are both substantive and methodological. On the one hand, they offer empirical support to claims about typicality and transgenderism, and highlight +KGYA's status in governing typicality judgments in the context of social gender categorization. On the other hand, the results also implicate negation as an indicator of the structure of typicality that forms the semantic backdrop of the discourse context. These findings could thus be of interest to a broad range of social and cognitive scientists and critical theorists. Ultimately the findings are interesting in their own right because of the insight they provide, and the questions they raise, as to the complex and fascinating relationship between language and thought.

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APPENDIX A

NARRATIVE 1

Robert, M. (November 2, 2013). How I knew I was trans. [video file]. Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/IapptmMuqSQ>

1 hey everybody
2 it's Marissa
3 and I wanted to bring you guys a video
4 I've been asked by a lot of people
5 to talk about how I know I was transgendered
6 so that's what I'm gonna do today
7 well I've always kind of known I transgender
8 well actually
9 I always knew I was
10 but the thing is that
11 when you are little
12 and you don't have a word for it
13 and you don't know what you are
14 it's kinda hard to tell people
15 and it wasn't something that I really talked about
16 in general
17 because I was really scared
18 but I did know
19 I knew something was wrong
20 not so much wrong
21 but I knew there was something up
22 when I was little growing up
23 I always in my head when I was younger
24 portrayed myself
25 as a female
26 when I would go to daycare
27 in like preschool and all that
28 I had
29 boyfriends
30 I actually dated
31 the kids in my class
32 some of the boys
33 they treated me like a girl
34 I would kind of act like a girl
35 and then during recess we would play
36 like mommy and daddy
37 and I would always be mommy

38 and they were always the dad
39 and I always kinda fit myself
40 into that gender role
41 a female in anything I did
42 now growing up
43 in my family
44 I couldn't really express my femininity
45 it was really hard
46 I had to hide who I was
47 and I was never comfortable hiding who I was
48 but I always did
49 just because I knew
50 I was trying to please other people
51 and I was scared of losing my family
52 or you know
53 what would they think
54 and all those typical things
55 people go through
56 when they're dealing with this kind of stuff
57 but I was really scared
58 that and my dad
59 abused me a lot growing up
60 he hit me
61 because of my femininity
62 well I wouldn't say hit
63 he wouldn't beat me up and stuff
64 like he's whip me with belts
65 he would
66 punch me in the head
67 he did a lot of stuff
68 and
69 just growing up wasn't the greatest
70 because my childhood was kind of
71 yeah it wasn't the greatest
72 I guess you could say
73 well growing up
74 I always envisioned myself as a woman
75 in my head
76 all the way through high school
77 and all my life
78 and even when I would daydream
79 I would always picture myself as a woman
80 in everything I did

81 I didn't go out dressing like one
82 I tried my best to be
83 a "straight male"
84 which
85 it did not work out
86 I couldn't fool anybody
87 people
88 always thought
89 I was gay
90 which bothered me
91 cuz I never felt gay
92 but at the time growing up
93 up until high school
94 I was associating myself
95 really as a gay male
96 because growing up
97 not knowing
98 what you are
99 it's kinda hard
100 and the only thing I knew at the time
101 was that
102 gay was a thing
103 and I knew that
104 if you had a boy appendage
105 and you liked other boys
106 that made you gay
107 so I went by the technical stance of it
108 well
109 you have a boy appendage
110 and you like boys
111 you're gay
112 and I figured that's what it must be
113 but even then
114 going to school and growing up
115 that never felt right
116 it never felt like me
117 I always felt female
118 but I figured
119 maybe gay guys just feel like girls
120 which isn't the case
121 because gay guys feel like men
122 except they're attracted to men
123 you know

124 being gay
125 only affects your orientation
126 it doesn't affect the gender you associate with
127 or you know
128 you know that you are
129 because we are all preprogrammed
130 and predispositioned
131 to know what we are
132 because our gender isn't what's between our legs
133 our gender is in our head
134 you know by instinct
135 what you are
136 and its kind of contradictory
137 when you're born with
138 you know
139 the opposite appendage
140 of what your brains says that should be there
141 it's a scary thing
142 and it's not a fun thing
143 and no one just chooses to be transgender
144 it's hard
145 just like
146 people that are born with both genitals
147 quote unquote "hermaphrodite people"
148 I don't know
149 there's probably a
150 better word
151 and I'm probably not saying that right
152 but people that are born with
153 you know
154 both parts
155 how do they know what gender they are
156 they don't just go around and pick
157 oh I think I'm going to be a boy
158 or I think I'm going to be girl
159 just because they have both
160 no it doesn't work that way
161 they know what they are
162 it's in their head
163 they're pre-programmed at birth
164 to know what they are
165 yeah they have both
166 but that doesn't mean you can pick

167 your predispositioned to know
168 what gender you are
169 and that's what people don't understand
170 cuz people constantly confuse
171 your gender
172 with your orientation
173 and they have nothing to do with each other
174 I feel like I'm a girl
175 who likes men
176 who
177 well
178 just who likes men
179 like a straight female
180 and people are always like
181 oh that's just a gay guy
182 not that they are clocking me
183 and stuff
184 but I'm sure that's what they're thinking
185 you know
186 once they find out that I'm trans
187 they're like
188 oh that's a gay guy
189 who's trying to impersonate a female
190 and it's like no
191 I'm a transgender female
192 I'm a female
193 I'm just a different kind of female
194 but nonetheless
195 I'm still a female
196 and I should be treated with the same respect
197 um
198 you know
199 it's not my fault I was born this way
200 if I could have chosen to be born
201 you know
202 normal
203 of course
204 if there's choice
205 I think everyone in this world would choose that
206 but there's not
207 because everyone's born imperfect
208 and this is my imperfection
209 and I'm proud of my imperfection

210 because it's me
211 um
212 and I mean
213 I would never choose for anyone to be trans
214 because it's hard as it is
215 and people can be very cruel
216 especially if you're trans
217 and a woman of color
218 the statistics for those kind of thing
219 are crazy
220 like the people most at risk
221 are trans women of color
222 and that's a scary thing
223 and society needs to
224 you know
225 open their minds more
226 and become more educated about trans people
227 and what it is
228 because when people don't understand something
229 they become very angry
230 and some people can become
231 very hostile when they're angry
232 and they could potentially hurt you
233 if you know
234 they find out that you are
235 and
236 they violence rate is a lot higher
237 in women of color
238 and I think that's disgusting
239 and society needs to move forward
240 and stop all this hate
241 because in the end we're all human beings
242 and if you hurt another human being
243 God doesn't approve
244 if that's what you're aiming at
245 and you're
246 pulling the bible card
247 that's an evil thing to do
248 I think he'd be more ok
249 with someone being transgender
250 than with you beating someone
251 for their imperfections
252 and its not like you're perfect yourself

253 so you shouldn't go around
254 teasing
255 beating
256 or you know
257 harassing people that are different
258 because it's just messed up
259 and you're just a messed up person if you do
260 and I'm sure there's a lot of internet trolls
261 that are going to write something stupid on this video
262 but you know what
263 that's ok
264 that's a reflection of them
265 and it just shows how ignorant they are
266 and
267 it's not my problem
268 I just laugh at the comments
269 I think they're kinda funny actually
270 internet trolls crack me up
271 but anyways
272 back to what I was talking about
273 so junior high
274 sixth grade
275 I hit puberty
276 horrible time for me
277 I was going through all these changes
278 nothing felt right
279 I was depressed
280 I was always angry
281 with all the hormones starting to kick in (??) my body
282 and getting the secondhand male characteristics
283 that come with puberty
284 I became a really angry bitch
285 and I was a bitch for everything
286 all the way up to high school
287 I was kind of a rebellious little bitch
288 not going to lie
289 I wasn't the funnest
290 I didn't pay attention
291 I didn't care about anything
292 I was just like
293 f-this
294 f-that
295 f-the world

296 f-everybody
297 and it was because I was angry
298 angry at God for making me the way he did
299 angry at myself
300 and a combination of being uncomfortable
301 and in denial of being trans
302 I wanted to believe I was gay
303 but I knew I wasn't gay
304 cuz gay never felt right
305 it wasn't until my ninth grade
306 year of high school
307 that I discovered what trans was for the first time
308 we had these um people
309 from the triangle speakers
310 that came down
311 from the diversity center in Santa Cruz
312 to talk in our health class
313 and it was composed of
314 a straight ally
315 a lesbian
316 a gay male
317 and a transgender female
318 and that's the first time
319 I ever found out
320 what trans was
321 and it blew my mind
322 because I was like
323 finally things make sense
324 and everything the girl said
325 her name was Ariel
326 I related to
327 and I understood
328 and that was the first time I finally figured out what I was
329 but growing up
330 I was still kind of like
331 in denial
332 and didn't want to come out of closet
333 scared of what people were going to think
334 and all this stuff
335 and
336 typical trans issues
337 that people go through
338 and it was hard

339 I mean I didn't come out until 2013
340 which was last year
341 like around summertime
342 and
343 well I didn't come out
344 I came out early that year
345 but I didn't start doing anything about it
346 like getting on hormones and stuff
347 until in the summertime
348 and from then on
349 it's been a hard road
350 you know
351 getting family to accept what I am
352 how I am
353 and yeah
354 I mean at work I've had it great
355 everyone's super supportive
356 super sweet
357 it's just been awesome
358 and
359 I couldn't have asked for something better
360 you know
361 my living situations were always up and down
362 can't
363 couldn't stay in a place
364 got kick out of home
365 it was just really hard
366 and a hard time
367 and I would never wish for anyone to go through
368 something so horrible
369 especially when your family
370 turns your back on you
371 and I don't know
372 I would never do that
373 to my own family
374 you know if I ever have kids
375 I'm going to love them unconditionally for what they are
376 for what they are
377 no matter what they are
378 I'm never going to hold my kids accountable for their defects
379 and
380 yeah
381 I mean

382 it's sad
383 sometimes the saying
384 blood is thicker than water
385 isn't always true
386 and it's sad for me to think that way
387 but it's true
388 because sometimes they will turn their back on you
389 and sometimes your friends are going to be the only ones that are there for you
390 so really
391 you know
392 find your friends
393 and keep the good ones close
394 because it great having great friends
395 and my friends are honestly
396 like my chosen family
397 they're amazing
398 and I'm blessed in that department
399 I dunno
400 I can't be down about the situation
401 you know
402 there's been a lot of blessings
403 just in the last ten months
404 since I started transition
405 that like
406 I'm just like wow
407 like I have nothing
408 to be sad for
409 I can be myself
410 and although it's been hard
411 I'm the happiest I've ever been
412 and that's all I could ask for
413 I'm not living my life for other people now
414 I'm living my life for me

NARRATIVE 2

Winter, S. (2013, Aug 23). How I knew I was transgender. [video file]. Retrieved from:
<http://youtu.be/nVAf8-3Ca6g>

415 I'm making this video to talk about
416 how I discovered I was transgender

417 so I kind of
418 uh
419 I kind of always knew that I was transgender
420 since I was little
421 uh
422 I always liked to play with barbies
423 and girls toys
424 yeah
425 I always liked to have
426 long hair
427 but my mom would not let me
428 and I remember that I used to cry
429 every time that I had to go to the barbershop and after that
430 and when I was
431 I remember when I was playing with my sister
432 I always would like
433 force her to play barbies with me
434 even though she was getting older
435 and she did not want to play barbies anymore
436 and I also remember
437 like when I was in kindergarten
438 I used to play
439 house
440 I was
441 I wanted to be the mom
442 and that's kind of something a lot of transgender
443 girls want
444 did
445 but I really did that a lot
446 and
447 I remember
448 there was this girl
449 that like I was playing with another guy
450 and I(??) was being the dad
451 and this girl was going to be
452 like our daughter
453 and I remember once
454 she wanted to be the mom
455 and I was like
456 no
457 I am going to be the mom
458 bitch
459 and she was like

460 but you're a boy
461 why do you want to be the mom all the time
462 are you gay
463 blah blah blah
464 blah blah blah
465 so
466 um
467 I was kinda a bully <laugh>in kindergarten
468 yah
469 and then
470 I kind of scared her
471 and
472 and we were both the mom
473 for some time
474 but then
475 I kind of made it
476 since I was kind of the one
477 that was
478 <ehem>
479 leading the game
480 I kind of made it like
481 she wasn't really the mom
482 so yeah
483 so come in my way bitch
484 um
485 so
486 then um
487 when I was older
488 and I went to middle school
489 I remember
490 I always
491 was made fun of
492 because I was very feminine
493 I was found
494 just with the girls
495 and I was the
496 wearing makeup
497 like foundation
498 usually not a lot of makeup
499 just foundation
500 and I was doing my hair
501 and I kind of wore
502 androgynous clothing

503 and I had this very high high voice
504 that guys would always make fun of me for
505 and they would try to make me scream and stuff
506 because it was "fun"
507 to hear my very girly voice
508 and
509 then
510 yeah
511 I kind of
512 I was bullied
513 because of my voice
514 I was bullied because I was very feminine
515 and weak
516 and they would like
517 try to hurt me
518 after school
519 because of that
520 and do very disgusting thing
521 I've been
522 I don't really want to remember all these things anymore
523 uh ok so
524 like
525 after like
526 my last year of middle school
527 when I was in Italy (??) technically
528 and I started to be
529 um not be friends with
530 anymore
531 I mean
532 I kind of isolated myself
533 and then
534 yeah that was pretty much how
535 and then
536 nobody was going to talk to me
537 not even bullying me
538 so that was cool
539 and
540 when they would
541 still bully me and have
542 their bully harass me
543 I would just laugh with them
544 cuz then they would see
545 I did not care

546 although I did
547 umm
548 by doing so
549 I kind of made it
550 that it was not fun anymore
551 to make fun of me
552 you know
553 so they had to stop
554 and since it was our last years together
555 cuz we were in middle school
556 we kinda tried to
557 be friendly
558 to each other
559 so that was ok
560 I guess
561 um then I moved to the Netherlands
562 I kinda stopped all that
563 I tried to be more masculine
564 because I didn't want to be transgender
565 you know
566 just
567 just
568 ???
569 about being gay
570 ??? transgender
571 that all transgender
572 are cross-dressers
573 and that they are prostitutes
574 now
575 it's kind of expensive
576 but not really expensive
577 to be transgender
578 in Italy
579 as of
580 it's less
581 I think it's less expensive than here
582 because there is not all this extra costs
583 of insurance and stuff
584 but it's a long time
585 and
586 to like get your hormones
587 you have to live for a year
588 as your desired gender

589 you know
590 and that's really hard
591 because then
592 there is already very hard
593 it's very hard already
594 to get employed in Italy
595 and that's why I moved so many times
596 but if you are transgender
597 it's even more
598 it's even harder because
599 um
600 people in Italy
601 are very trans-phobic
602 and very afraid of difference
603 and they're very racist
604 not just transphobic
605 they're very racist
606 and I experience a lot of racism
607 being biracial
608 yeah and
609 not a lot of trans-phobia
610 because usually
611 when you're very feminine
612 the first thing that people think
613 is that you're gay
614 not transgender
615 so that was my experience in Italy
616 so then
617 in the Netherlands
618 I did not want
619 the same thing to happen to me
620 so I started to
621 uh
622 be more masculine
623 but that was not me
624 so
625 I ??? very shy too
626 because I could not
627 express myself
628 and I did not make many friends
629 not even the girls
630 so I was very alone
631 and it was very sad

632 and the same thing happened
633 when I moved here
634 the first year
635 and the second year of high school
636 and even right now
637 I have
638 I have no friends
639 because I'm very shy at school
640 because I cannot be myself
641 and if you cannot express yourself
642 then it's kind of like
643 you have to fake
644 to be this guy
645 that's not you
646 and you cannot really make a lot of friends
647 because it's not really yourself
648 because you're not being yourself
649 and so
650 when I went to America
651 the first year
652 when I was a sophomore
653 I started again to wear makeup
654 and straightened my hair
655 but I was very masculine again
656 until like
657 the end of the year
658 when I was kind of less
659 and I was wearing makeup
660 and straightening my hair
661 and then I started buying very androgynous clothing
662 like necklaces also
663 and accessories
664 lip gloss
665 I was wearing these shoes
666 that had like a platform
667 and was kind of androgynous
668 but especially at my school
669 because I went to this school
670 that was very um
671 kind of ghetto
672 yeah it was a very ghetto school
673 uhh and yeah
674 there was a lot of transphobia

675 homophobia
676 and yeah
677 that
678 that was pretty much
679 I was kinda bullied
680 at the end
681 because of that
682 people were like saying the f-word to me
683 so since that was starting to happen there
684 I moved school
685 and now
686 this year
687 I was kinda more masculine
688 as of
689 I stopped wearing makeup
690 I did not wear any makeup
691 the whole year
692 which is like
693 wow
694 but I was still straightening my hair
695 and I was actually kind of like
696 growing my hair
697 until like a point where
698 I decided to stop
699 because I wanted to be masculine again
700 but when I did cut my hair
701 I felt really bad
702 and then
703 I realized that I was transgendered
704 pretty much
705 because I was very dysphoric
706 I started being very dysphoric about my body
707 and um all that
708 plus the hair
709 that was very short
710 I was looking in the mirror
711 and I saw images that I did not like
712 and I started
713 I joined this support group
714 on the internet
715 called seasons
716 and it's very helpful
717 although it's mostly used by

718 transgenders that are older
719 but that's pretty much with all the
720 transgender groups
721 you will not really find
722 a lot of teenagers
723 like me
724 because
725 yeah there are not a lot of transgender teenagers
726 in general
727 so yeah
728 but it was very helpful
729 and then
730 by there
731 I kind of got to know this group
732 Anya who will
733 helps people self-medicate
734 and I started doing that
735 and now I'm self-medicate
736 and it's been
737 uh
738 week and half
739 that I'm taking
740 estrogen
741 so that's good
742 I know that
743 self-medicate is bad
744 but now I
745 now I
746 I'm not gonna
747 I don't wanna talk about self-medicate
748 this is not the right video for that
749 so
750 as yeah
751 this is how I discovered
752 that I was transgender
753 I hope this video was helpful for you

NARRATIVE 3

Jammidodger (2014, Mar. 10). FTM how I knew I was transgender. [video file].
Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/B1Wdo6wGkqQ>

754 hey it's Jamie

755 um
756 so I wanted to make a video
757 about how
758 I realized
759 I was transgender
760 it's something I've been asked a lot
761 ever since I started
762 making videos for YouTube
763 and having a tumblr
764 and everything like that
765 um
766 and it is a video
767 I've tried to make before
768 um
769 but
770 unsuccessfully
771 I just couldn't get the words out
772 so I guess
773 if you're watching this
774 then
775 I managed to
776 make one that was decent
777 <heh>
778 or hopefully
779 um
780 ok so
781 its best to start at the beginning
782 when I was four years old
783 um
784 was when I had my
785 sort of
786 earliest memory of
787 knowing I was male
788 and it was just after I started school
789 and the toilets were unisex
790 so there wasn't much differentiation
791 between boys and girls
792 and I felt like a boy
793 and I sort of hung out with all the boys
794 I dressed like the boys
795 you know
796 and everything like that
797 so I just thought I was

798 a normal boy
799 and I would sort of develop a bit later on
800 if
801 if you get what I mean
802 um
803 uh
804 fast forward a few years and I'd realized that wasn't
805 gonna happen
806 but right up until I hit puberty
807 um
808 I had
809 short hair
810 not like short short
811 probably like how it is now
812 like all male clothes
813 I often got referred to as male
814 and I liked it
815 and I accepted it
816 um
817 and
818 I remember this one time when I was about eight
819 I got my hair cut
820 and like
821 I turned around to my mom
822 and I was like
823 do I look like a boy
824 um
825 and it was just like
826 all I wanted to do
827 I kind of realized I was different
828 from other boys but
829 I was desperate to
830 fit in with them
831 um
832 but then I hit puberty
833 and that's not a fun time
834 uhuh
835 I
836 I was really uncomfortable
837 and I
838 I felt a lot more pressure
839 to fit in
840 with girls really

841 I went to a
842 all-girls school
843 um
844 so it was
845 it was
846 it wasn't a great time for me
847 um and I did try and fit in
848 but like shopping for girls clothes
849 was horrible
850 I hated it
851 and it made me feel so uncomfortable
852 and it felt so
853 wrong
854 um
855 and I was so happy when school was over
856 um cuz I went to college
857 and it just
858 the
859 the
860 there's a lot more freedom
861 everyone was a bit more open-minded
862 and
863 it gave me the confidence to start in
864 like wearing
865 things that make me more comfortable and
866 cutting my hair shorter
867 um but I still
868 I still didn't know
869 like about
870 like
871 people who were transgender
872 I didn't know that
873 it was something that people did
874 but I sort of
875 happened across a documentary on night
876 and like
877 it was just
878 like the
879 kinda
880 kinda like a revelation really
881 and just from then I did some research
882 I was about
883 you know

884 sixteen at the time
885 and it was just
886 making a lot of sense to me
887 about how other people had felt and
888 um I mean obviously you shouldn't
889 compare yourself to other people like that
890 but you know
891 if it help--
892 if it makes you feel better
893 that somebody's feeling similar
894 and it helps you make sense of your own feelings
895 then that's great
896 and that what
897 you know
898 watching documentaries
899 and other guys on youtube
900 helped me to do
901 and so from then on
902 I just sort of started experimenting
903 like I just knew it was right for me
904 it felt right
905 you know
906 using male pronouns and
907 cuz I'd always felt male
908 and just being able to live
909 as male was
910 was a really great feeling
911 and I just felt
912 so much more comfortable
913 and more confident in myself
914 and then
915 you know
916 socially transitioning is a big step
917 and just the last two years
918 since I've been on T have been
919 great
920 and just like
921 I just feel like
922 I'm growing more and more confidence
923 and
924 yeah
925 that it was definitely
926 the right thing for me to do

927 and it's like
 928 this has always been
 929 how I have been
 930 if tha--
 931 I messed that up a bit
 932 but you know what I mean
 933 hopefully
 934 um so yeah
 935 I hope that that made sense
 936 um
 937 I'm glad I managed to get it out
 938 and that it
 939 can maybe help some people
 940 if you have any questions
 941 um
 942 my tumblr link is down below
 943 so
 944 if you send them to me there
 945 I'm more likely to answer
 946 but yeah
 947 see you next time
 <end 4.38>

NARRATIVE 4

Crazyparrotfish38 (2013, Apr. 4). How I knew I was transgender. [video file]. Retrieved
 from: http://youtu.be/0rJ_1yQvaZc

948 um
 949 for as long as I can remember
 950 I felt a disconnect
 951 from my body
 952 um
 953 from about age four
 954 I think
 955 I can remember
 956 having this awareness of being a boy
 957 and just not understanding
 958 why people were treating me differently
 959 to other boys
 960 um
 961 why the rules were different for me

962 why I couldn't sit with my legs open
963 why I couldn't have my hair cut
964 um
965 why maybe telling my mom
966 that I married some girl that day at nursery was inappropriate
967 that kind of thing
968 um
969 yeah i just didn't understand
970 what was going on
971 why was I different
972 everyone was treating me different
973 and I realized
974 um
975 when I was about six
976 um
977 that
978 my body was different to other boys
979 and I was like
980 what's going on
981 like you know
982 by then
983 I was being told things
984 like I'd heard
985 that I was gonna grow up to be a woman
986 and I remember
987 panicking about that
988 I didn't want to be a woman
989 um
990 and I just thought why is this happening to me
991 being raised in a Christian home
992 my first thing
993 my first idea was to pray about it
994 and ask God what happened
995 and um
996 yeah
997 by age eight
998 I was panicking
999 and asking God to fix it
1000 so I could wake up
1001 and be in a boy's body
1002 and obviously that didn't happen
1003 and yeah I freaked out
1004 um

1005 and from around that age
1006 I just
1007 I looked from anything I could
1008 um that related to me
1009 um my mom had these mediquest books
1010 a whole collection of medical books
1011 and I remember
1012 I just used to look through them
1013 when I was younger
1014 and I remember seeing
1015 a picture of this man
1016 and then a picture underneath it of this woman
1017 and I realized it was the same person
1018 and the word transsexual was there
1019 and um yeah
1020 it described how you would have this operation
1021 to become female
1022 and she was now
1023 you know
1024 um
1025 and I was really like
1026 wow
1027 like I didn't know it could happen
1028 but they didn't show anything
1029 for FTM
1030 so I still didn't know
1031 that I could do that
1032 I didn't see it as an option
1033 I didn't see anything like that
1034 until I was about thirteen or fourteen
1035 I saw this documentary
1036 on channel four
1037 called make me a man
1038 and it was about four trans men
1039 at different stages of their transition
1040 two of them were just about to start hormones
1041 and one of them was going to have top surgery
1042 been on hormones for a while
1043 and the fourth one was Steven Wittle
1044 who had started transitioning back in the seventies
1045 and had been on hormones for ages
1046 and was um
1047 about to have lower surgery

1048 um
1049 so that really opened up my eyes
1050 and I realized that I could actually do something about this
1051 and I didn't
1052 I didn't know any of these things were open to me
1053 and at that age
1054 I decided that when I turned eighteen
1055 I was just going to leave home
1056 and change my name
1057 and I was going to transition fully
1058 and I had my heart set on that
1059 as soon as I realized I could do that
1060 that's what I really wanted to do
1061 I was like
1062 finally
1063 yes there is a way out then
1064 and there are other people like me
1065 it made me feel really relieved to know that
1066 I even remember
1067 that I used to take the bandages
1068 out of the first aid kit
1069 um in
1070 in the bathroom
1071 and I would use it to bind
1072 and this is just as puberty was starting to do its crap to me
1073 um I would start
1074 I would bind
1075 and I didn't even know
1076 the
1077 the word for it then
1078 I was just doing it
1079 because I wanted to see my chest flat
1080 and I'd bind
1081 and I would look in the mirror at myself
1082 and I would just cry
1083 because I didn't understand why
1084 my body was doing what it was doing
1085 um I just didn't
1086 I don't know
1087 I was still in denial
1088 um I think I was in denial
1089 up until the point my monthly started
1090 and after then

1091 I was just like
1092 this really is it
1093 isn't it
1094 for some reason
1095 starting that
1096 was just like
1097 the final thing
1098 I even held on to
1099 maybe if that didn't start
1100 maybe I really was a boy
1101 just with some hormonal thing going on
1102 or something like that
1103 it was heartbreaking
1104 for me
1105 um puberty
1106 it was
1107 absolutely awful
1108 and I never understood
1109 why girls were celebrating these things
1110 girls would come into school
1111 and be like
1112 oh I've started my period now
1113 I'm a woman now
1114 and I'm thinking
1115 what's there to celebrate
1116 but I realize
1117 obviously for them
1118 it's cuz they were going through the right puberty for them
1119 and for me it was just like
1120 I wouldn't want to tell anyone what's going on
1121 you know
1122 I want to hide my chest
1123 I want to hide my body
1124 I used to dress in the baggiest clothes
1125 um at school
1126 my uniform was really baggy
1127 and it's because I hated my shape so much
1128 um hated my figure
1129 I just wanted to hide
1130 um
1131 and I remember once actually
1132 passing as a boy
1133 when I was in school

1134 and I remember my friend going
1135 naw that's a girl
1136 and it was a shopkeeper
1137 who was like
1138 no that's a boy
1139 and he didn't believe my friend either
1140 and I didn't say anything
1141 but I was kind of embarrassed
1142 cuz my friend didn't know
1143 it was really a weird
1144 um feeling
1145 but I liked it
1146 in certain ways
1147 I thought
1148 well this person can see me
1149 you know
1150 I wish everybody could
1151 like I said
1152 I was so disconnected from my body
1153 that I would forget
1154 that I was in a female body
1155 cuz it was like
1156 my mind would expect
1157 certain things from my body
1158 and my body
1159 kept failing to do that
1160 or you know
1161 even when I was socializing
1162 I'd be talking to girls
1163 and thinking that
1164 you know
1165 they're looking
1166 they can see
1167 I didn't understand
1168 that they couldn't see that I was a boy
1169 basically
1170 um because it was how I saw myself
1171 um they'd interact with me differently
1172 and I'd always get confused
1173 and forget
1174 that they were interacting
1175 with what they could see
1176 and I would forget

1177 that they couldn't see
1178 that I was a boy
1179 you know
1180 it could be something simple
1181 like someone getting changed
1182 and my instincts say
1183 turn around
1184 it's what a gentleman does
1185 and
1186 then you hear them say
1187 oh we've all got the same thing
1188 it's fine
1189 and stuff like that
1190 and this was before
1191 anyone knew I was attracted to girls
1192 everything changed after that point
1193 I should add
1194 um
1195 but yeah anyway
1196 interactions like that were really weird to me
1197 and it was just strange
1198 I can't really describe how strange it was
1199 that feel of forgetting what skin you're in
1200 it's really weird
1201 it made
1202 it made me quite a shy person
1203 I wasn't shy as a child
1204 even at primary school
1205 I wasn't shy
1206 but when I got to my teens
1207 and secondary school
1208 um
1209 interactions between the sexes had changed
1210 and I was just being seen as female
1211 and I couldn't really handle it
1212 I became so depressed
1213 in my teens
1214 um and anxious
1215 and it was horrible
1216 I really went into myself
1217 um in my teen years
1218 but yeah so
1219 when I was about fourteen

1220 I decided that when I turned eighteen
1221 that I was just going to leave home
1222 and go to a doctor
1223 and transition
1224 and that would be it
1225 I would just make up a new life somewhere
1226 um
1227 but it didn't work out that way
1228 um obviously
1229 mostly because I
1230 became really afraid of coming out
1231 and I didn't want to lose anyone close to me
1232 I didn't want to be on my own
1233 I was afraid that
1234 mostly of being on my own
1235 and no one would love me
1236 no one would date me
1237 no one would hire me for work
1238 I was just thinking
1239 what kind of life am I going to have
1240 I thought that everything was going to fall about
1241 um if I came out
1242 and decided to transition
1243 and convincing myself of that
1244 only made me more depressed
1245 and feel more trapped
1246 because I felt like
1247 I'm screwed if I do
1248 I'm screwed if I don't
1249 and I just
1250 I kind of lost hope
1251 um when I was about sixteen
1252 I just thought
1253 I can't
1254 what am I going to do with myself
1255 you know by this age
1256 I had come out as gay
1257 I realized that
1258 that was something
1259 that was far more understood
1260 than transsexual
1261 I was like
1262 how can I come out

1263 and say I'm transgender
1264 um no one knows what this means
1265 no one understands
1266 but they understand gay
1267 so I can say
1268 ok I'm gay
1269 and so I lived like that for a while
1270 um I should say
1271 even when I was at school
1272 um I did tell a couple of my friends
1273 that I was attracted to other girls
1274 um I never really like to call myself gay
1275 even if anyone asked me
1276 I would just say
1277 I'm attracted to women
1278 um I wasn't even one hundred percent comfortable saying gay
1279 um people'd call me that
1280 and I'd be like
1281 whatever
1282 but I never really liked saying it myself
1283 um and I did have some trouble at school
1284 as a result of that
1285 um it wasn't a very pleasant experience at all
1286 girls would be like
1287 not wanted to sit next to me
1288 and stuff like that
1289 I pretty much avoided PE
1290 mainly because of the whole changing room issue
1291 and yeah
1292 it was hard
1293 um it was really hard
1294 at that same age
1295 I got into a relationship
1296 that was really unhealthy
1297 but she was also the first person that I told how I felt
1298 and the first person to ask me
1299 something like
1300 have you ever
1301 had any other names for yourself in mind
1302 and would you want me to call you that
1303 um but it was just
1304 I wasn't ready
1305 to deal with everything

1306 and I freaked out
1307 a little bit about it
1308 plus the relationship was so unhealthy
1309 by the end of it
1310 I just was ready to block everything out
1311 and yeah
1312 I lived a very gay life
1313 for three years
1314 I met other girls
1315 and just drank years away
1316 um drank and partied years away
1317 I tried so hard to be
1318 as close as I could
1319 to what I thought other people wanted me to be
1320 being a straight female was just not an option
1321 um the best I could do was
1322 um be gay
1323 I even tried to feminize myself
1324 um which didn't feel right
1325 um but I was really good at acting confident
1326 even though I didn't feel it
1327 but when I got to about
1328 twenty
1329 twenty-one
1330 I couldn't keep it in anymore
1331 alot of things happened
1332 and I decided I should tell my parents
1333 and tell my friends
1334 how I felt
1335 and people were quite shocked
1336 um a lot
1337 what I heard a lot
1338 was that
1339 you're you know
1340 you're a pretty girl
1341 you know
1342 you know
1343 why would you want
1344 to do this to yourself
1345 and it
1346 it got really frustrating
1347 and I kind of wished that I
1348 had come out and said something sooner

1349 because
1350 maybe it would have been more understandable
1351 you know I
1352 I felt
1353 really awful
1354 because it always felt like
1355 people really took to this fake version of me
1356 and didn't understand why I couldn't be that anymore
1357 and they didn't believe that that wasn't me
1358 almost
1359 that's how it seemed
1360 um
1361 but it took me a really long time
1362 to accept
1363 um
1364 that I'm transgender
1365 and I still am
1366 trying to accept it
1367 it's not easy
1368 um
1369 I still get really down
1370 I still get really depressed
1371 and angry
1372 and fed up
1373 I fought my feelings
1374 for a really long time
1375 purely because I didn't see
1376 how I could have any kind of life
1377 if I came out
1378 and if I transitioned
1379 and
1380 I still panic
1381 about that
1382 I still panic
1383 and think
1384 am I making things worse for myself
1385 somehow
1386 but I'm so tired of being unhappy
1387 and I know that I've
1388 it's a
1389 it's a hard road
1390 but
1391 I don't know what else I can do anymore

1392 I have this thing
1393 that life was going to be hard either way
1394 really
1395 if I tried to bury it
1396 I was in for
1397 a mess
1398 and you know
1399 now I've come out
1400 in some ways I feel way better
1401 for being honest but
1402 it's not easy
1403 um
1404 at all
1405 um
1406 that's why it infuriates me
1407 when people try to say I've chosen this
1408 and they say that trans people
1409 chose this at all
1410 cuz who the hell would
1411 in their right mind
1412 chose this for themselves
1413 I tried to run from myself
1414 for a long time
1415 but you can only run from yourself
1416 for so long
1417 before you realize
1418 that you're still there
1419 wherever you go
1420 there you are
1421 and that's what it's been like
1422 for me
1423 after fighting against myself
1424 for so long
1425 I'm all out of fight now
1426 I would never have chosen this for myself
1427 no way
1428 um
1429 I still wish
1430 so much
1431 that I could just
1432 be normal
1433 you know
1434 and be cis

1435 and be content
 1436 as I am
 1437 I tried
 1438 for so long
 1439 to be that
 1440 and you can't
 1441 you can't force things like that
 1442 I am who I am
 1443 and it is what it is
 1444 what can I do
 1445 I say
 1446 at the end of videos
 1447 that I'll try and update again
 1448 really soon
 1449 but
 1450 I often
 1451 am finding I leave gaps
 1452 I will speak to you soon
 1453 take care
 <end 13.02>

NARRATIVE 5

Mepschen, D. (2014, Jul. 17). First video, how I knew I was transgender. [video file].

Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/aYEGdvI5ONE>

1454 hi
 1455 my name is Dean
 1456 nice to meet you
 1457 I'm sorry
 1458 ??? (german?)
 1459 this is not my native language
 1460 sorry for
 1461 any mistakes made
 1462 I'll be here to help you
 1463 um questions
 1464 and advise
 1465 I'm still pre-testosterone
 1466 and surgery
 1467 and so
 1468 but I'm getting treatment
 1469 real soon

1470 so
1471 um
1472 well
1473 um
1474 about me
1475 um
1476 I'm very into tv shows
1477 so yeah
1478 I mostly wear flannel shirts
1479 and stuff
1480 and yeah
1481 I like playing guitar
1482 and keyboard
1483 and stuff
1484 um
1485 um about the whole transgender thing
1486 and how I knew I was trans
1487 well
1488 it had occupied my mind since my childhood
1489 um
1490 the wish of being a boy
1491 instead of a girl
1492 in elementary school I always wanted to play
1493 with the boys
1494 because I felt like one of them
1495 um yeah
1496 I usually raged at my mom
1497 when she took me shopping
1498 um I hated shopping
1499 because I had to wear clothes
1500 that I didn't like
1501 that I didn't like
1502 sorry
1503 um
1504 well I didn't like them
1505 I hated them
1506 I always wanted boys clothes
1507 but the parents made me wear girly clothes
1508 um because "I'm a girl"
1509 so yeah
1510 I couldn't wear boys clothes
1511 not as a "lady"
1512 um yeah when I got into high school

1513 I started experimenting with my looks
1514 um what I like
1515 what I don't like
1516 ???
1517 um I've had some
1518 several different looks
1519 in the span of five years or something
1520 I had been in a "normal" phase
1521 until high school, I think
1522 and then I changed into an emo kiddo
1523 yeah all black and
1524 ????
1525 and stuff
1526 I usually wore unisex
1527 or men's shirts
1528 because I felt more comfortable in them
1529 you couldn't see
1530 my feminine figure
1531 I never really talked about my feelings
1532 until high school
1533 cuz I thought it was normal to have these feelings and thoughts
1534 and wishes and stuff
1535 yeah
1536 in high school I got money to buy clothes myself
1537 so yeah that was a lesson for me
1538 I could finally buy
1539 what I wanted to buy
1540 yes!
1541 um yeah
1542 the older I got
1543 the more boys clothes I wore
1544 my parents went with the flow really
1545 and tried more feminine things on me
1546 they were like
1547 wear this
1548 wear that
1549 and I was like
1550 no!
1551 and yeah
1552 the feelings
1553 of wanting to be a boy
1554 got worse and worse
1555 and during my finals

1556 like somewhat
1557 about a year ago
1558 I thought of binding
1559 of my boobs
1560 I uh made a
1561 self-made binder
1562 it was from a vest made of stretch material
1563 and I folded it like that
1564 and yeah well
1565 it worked
1566 its usually known as figure correcting
1567 if you know what I mean
1568 um it worked but
1569 um
1570 I got a real binder later
1571 from underworks
1572 and well yeah
1573 that worked better
1574 of course
1575 it didn't slide off as oft
1576 and I didn't have to pull it up once in a while
1577 um yeah
1578 I felt really comfortable in it
1579 and I loved it very much
1580 I cut off my hair as well
1581 in the same period of time
1582 but I was scared at first
1583 the result was so much better
1584 I immediately felt better
1585 when I came back
1586 from the hairdresser
1587 people started assuming that I was a guy
1588 which I loved
1589 I felt like
1590 it should have been like that
1591 all along
1592 you know
1593 I don't know if it sounds familiar
1594 I uh
1595 eventually started going to college
1596 um
1597 I made a lot of new friends
1598 I told them about my feelings

1599 and I eventually chose a boy's name
1600 I became Dean
1601 um
1602 they called me that ever since
1603 yeah I feel like home when they call me that
1604 you know
1605 um and they treat me like a guy
1606 and I feel like
1607 yeah it's right
1608 um
1609 yeah
1610 and like
1611 a couple of months back
1612 I think it was
1613 half a year ago
1614 or something
1615 I got into some sort of mental breakdown
1616 um
1617 it was a sort of dark period
1618 in my life
1619 um
1620 I couldn't go to college anymore
1621 I was very unstable
1622 um
1623 my grades were dropping and
1624 it seemed like I couldn't
1625 shouldn't make it
1626 til next year
1627 so yeah
1628 and my parents eventually
1629 noticed
1630 I wasn't too happy anymore
1631 and yeah well
1632 I broke down crying and stuff
1633 and told them what was "wrong" with me
1634 I told them there was help for me
1635 and that I'd be
1636 that I could be happy when I
1637 live as a guy
1638 you know
1639 and going through transition and stuff
1640 um yeah well they accepted it
1641 and it was really cool

1642 and I'm grateful for that
1643 um
1644 they support me
1645 so yeah
1646 that's great
1647 cuz you really need your parents
1648 in this process
1649 I think
1650 when you are able to
1651 they are calling me Dean now as well
1652 which
1653 yeah great
1654 um
1655 well that's about it
1656 about my
1657 me being trans
1658 I made it as short as possible
1659 uh yeah
1660 since my big come out
1661 to my friends and family
1662 I started doing voice exercises
1663 to make it sound
1664 a big more
1665 deep
1666 and stuff
1667 but yeah
1668 my voice
1669 doesn't always work with me
1670 sometimes it's like
1671 oh
1672 let's be girly
1673 you know
1674 and I'm like
1675 <eye roll>
1676 but yeah
1677 I roughly
1678 pass
1679 seven out of ten times
1680 I think
1681 as a guy
1682 um
1683 I ????
1684 recently

1685 and I'll be hearing about
1686 the future appointments soon
1687 I think next week
1688 I'm really happy about that
1689 I've waited for it
1690 so long
1691 um
1692 if you have questions
1693 here I am
1694 don't be afraid to ask them
1695 um I think ???
1696 the next video
1697 when I'm having diagnostics
1698 with my therapist
1699 which just
1700 yeah
1701 I dunno yet
1702 um stay tuned
1703 ???
1704 that's female to male stuff
1705 um yeah
1706 one last thing
1707 what's helped me
1708 finding out
1709 being
1710 yeah
1711 finding out
1712 um
1713 about myself being trans
1714 was specially YouTube videos
1715 um
1716 fellow
1717 transgender people
1718 in my area
1719 yeah
1720 and the internet in general
1721 it's a lot
1722 on the internet
1723 sp yeah
1724 that's the reason why I think it's important
1725 to
1726 yeah
1727 tell people

1728 let them know
 1729 like
 1730 I know exactly how hard it is
 1731 to find out who you really are
 1732 who you want to be
 1733 and how you want to live it
 1734 took me a few years myself
 1735 to actually
 1736 dare
 1737 to say I was trans
 1738 so yeah
 1739 I'm
 1740 I hope I can be of help
 1741 if it makes any sense
 1742 and yeah
 1743 stay tuned
 1744 see you later
 <end 8:19>

NARRATIVE 6

Williams, G. (2011, Jun. 25). How I knew I was trans: My Story and the Trans Narrative. [video file]. Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/jo3Qav6cLtY>

1745 What I wanted to talk about in this video is
 1746 um
 1747 I guess
 1748 uhh
 1749 the idea of a trans narrative
 1750 um that sort of typical trans storyline we all
 1751 we all come across
 1752 at one point or the other
 1753 um and uh
 1754 how I do and don't fit into that
 1755 uh
 1756 cuz i read something on tumblr where
 1757 somebody posted about
 1758 how um
 1759 they were looking for stories from people who
 1760 didn't go through the whole
 1761 um didn't follow the whole like
 1762 you know
 1763 I knew I was trans when I was two

1764 and I've just always been a boy
1765 and that's who I am
1766 uh didn't follow that storyline
1767 and um
1768 I thought it might be pertinent to make a video about that
1769 because there might be other people out there who shared that experience
1770 um so
1771 it is certainly my experience that
1772 I didn't know that I was a boy
1773 when I was a kid
1774 umm
1775 wha--I was
1776 I was kind of trying to think back on my
1777 sort of gendered history
1778 um
1779 and
1780 think about how I would word my childhood
1781 and my gender journey as a young person
1782 um
1783 in such a way that it would be concise enough for this video
1784 and what I've found that's really stumping me
1785 um
1786 is
1787 the fact that
1788 I have spent the last two years of my life
1789 rewriting uh um
1790 my
1791 gender history
1792 um
1793 rewriting my story
1794 in such a way that it
1795 I rewrote it to match the trans-narrative
1796 I did that in my mind
1797 I did that
1798 I have been lying to healthcare professiona--
1799 healthcare professionals
1800 through my entire medical transition
1801 um
1802 in order to seem like
1803 your typical well-adjusted heterosexual trans man
1804 um
1805 and
1806 I wasn't

1807 I didn't necessarily know if I had to do that
1808 um I did that with the online therapist that I saw
1809 uh who gave me my testosterone letter after like four sessions
1810 um and uh
1811 cuz I was going into that therapy
1812 not because I wanted a therapist to help me process my gender stuff
1813 but because I wanted to get on testosterone
1814 um
1815 and I wanted a therapist who would write a letter for me
1816 um so I lied to that therapist about my gendered journey
1817 about um
1818 my childhood
1819 um puberty
1820 all of that stuff because I'd done
1821 I'd exposed myself enough to a typical trans-narrative with my own research
1822 that I knew more or less what they would want to hear
1823 um and this therapist did seem like someone who would probably be ok with
1824 me coming out as gender queer
1825 or as confused
1826 umm but I was so terrified
1827 of uh
1828 compromising my access to testosterone
1829 that
1830 um
1831 I just lied
1832 straight up
1833 uh I continue to lie
1834 I compulsively tell
1835 total untruths
1836 to healthcare professionals
1837 my current doctor is awesome
1838 um she's queer
1839 she's um
1840 she was the one who proscribed me testosterone
1841 she's been with me through my whole transition
1842 um
1843 and I can't help but lie to her
1844 um
1845 you know
1846 I went into her once
1847 to to talk to her about how i was
1848 um
1849 this was at a

1850 at a point when I was unsure about testosterone
1851 and I was considering going off of it
1852 um and I went in to express those fears and see what she had to say about it
1853 and um
1854 yeah basically I went in and was like
1855 um
1856 yeah just coming in for a checkup
1857 uhh
1858 and she was like
1859 well we could probably increase your dose
1860 and I was like
1861 ok
1862 huh
1863 I just went with it
1864 and like
1865 could not bring myself
1866 to talk about my doubts
1867 for fear that
1868 um
1869 that uh
1870 she would
1871 somehow mark down
1872 somewhere
1873 uh that
1874 I
1875 wasn't trans
1876 uh
1877 and then I'd never be able
1878 to get on testosterone again
1879 and it's an irrational fear
1880 I know that sort of thing happens less and less
1881 if it even happens at all these days
1882 umm so
1883 due to
1884 this pressure to
1885 to appeal to health care professionals
1886 knowing what I know about
1887 what people have had to say
1888 generally
1889 in order to get on testosterone
1890 and wanting so badly to get on testosterone
1891 um
1892 I spent

1893 the whole
1894 eight months
1895 it was probably a good eight months
1896 where I
1897 from when I started seeing the therapist
1898 to when I finally got my T prescription
1899 um where I was actively trying to get on testosterone
1900 um
1901 explaining my life in such a way that
1902 I matched that narrative
1903 that sort of like
1904 yeah I knew when I was very young
1905 yes I was
1906 um puberty was a shock
1907 I feel intense dysphoria about my entire body
1908 and whatever
1909 um whereas
1910 from what I can
1911 recall now of my experience
1912 um
1913 trying to detach it from the lies that I've kind of
1914 fed myself about it
1915 um
1916 when I was a kid
1917 I mean
1918 I didn't
1919 I didn't think I was a boy
1920 you know
1921 like I didn't have any sort of
1922 confusion growing up
1923 where I was like
1924 no I'm a boy
1925 why is everybody calling me a girl
1926 or any experiences like that
1927 I knew from a very very early age
1928 um that I was supposed to be a girl
1929 and as a girl
1930 I was supposed to do certain things
1931 and I had no real concept of my gender
1932 um
1933 or of
1934 gender in general
1935 or

1936 no sense that I could be anything other than what people were saying that I was
1937 um
1938 cuz I just couldn't fathom the possibility
1939 uh I did spend
1940 enormous amounts of time
1941 wishing I was a boy
1942 um hoping that I would magically turn into a boy
1943 uh I went through a
1944 god fearing phase
1945 I found God as a kid
1946 and figured God was
1947 sort of like
1948 um
1949 you know
1950 wizard man
1951 who could
1952 if I prayed to him enough
1953 turn me into a boy
1954 by the time I woke up
1955 the next morning
1956 um that sort of thing
1957 um
1958 yeah
1959 I identified very strongly with boys
1960 um whenever we'd play
1961 like my brother and I
1962 would play roleplaying games
1963 uh you know like
1964 with GI Joes or whatever
1965 even just like making up characters
1966 and just running around
1967 and uh playing
1968 you know
1969 imagination style
1970 uh I was always a male character
1971 so I had a strong identification
1972 with boys
1973 um
1974 with maleness
1975 um
1976 but I didn't have
1977 a concept
1978 of myself

1979 as a boy
1980 I didn't have a concept of myself
1981 as any sort of gender
1982 or I just sort of existed
1983 as I had to
1984 um I did my best
1985 to be
1986 to do girl things
1987 uh
1988 to appease my family
1989 um
1990 and those around me
1991 but that didn't really work well
1992 uh
1993 and that made me very uncomfortable
1994 um
1995 when puberty happened
1996 you know I just
1997 I actually
1998 I can't remember what puberty was like for me
1999 I remember
2000 like I know that like
2001 my body changed
2002 I know that
2003 there was a lot of anxiety around it
2004 um
2005 I dunno
2006 I remember my mom explaining to me like
2007 what would happen with menstruation and stuff
2008 um and
2009 I basically
2010 didn't really understand
2011 what she was saying
2012 I didn't understand why she was telling it to me
2013 not because I thought I was a boy
2014 but because I just thought
2015 I was somehow exempt from that
2016 I think I sort of saw myself in this
2017 like sort of genderless space
2018 where I was trying to
2019 be the best kid I could
2020 and follow everyone's directions of
2021 what should be expected of me

2022 but I just
2023 was really confused about the whole gender thing
2024 um in that
2025 I didn't really get gender
2026 or how I fit into that whole equation
2027 um so yeah
2028 there's that's my experience as I can recall it
2029 as a young person
2030 um
2031 yeah and when puberty hit
2032 I mean
2033 I remember really wishing
2034 that I had bigger muscles
2035 as the other
2036 as as the other guy's muscles
2037 started getting bigger
2038 and that sort of thing
2039 um
2040 I remember having
2041 my male named picked out
2042 for when God would magically
2043 turn me into a boy actually
2044 and of course those fantasies faded away
2045 as I started getting a little bit older
2046 and when I was around twelve or thirteen
2047 I became really really desperately depressed
2048 um
2049 and uh
2050 yeah I started a lot of stuff that
2051 um to express my depression
2052 that was very very harmful
2053 um
2054 and uh
2055 and really did
2056 uh really did quite seriously fantasize about
2057 uh
2058 about dying
2059 I really wanted to
2060 to be able to do that
2061 at that point cuz I
2062 um I had so much anxiety
2063 it was so overwhelming that I
2064 could not fathom continuing

2065 to live
2066 um
2067 so I didn't really talk to anyone about this sort of stuff
2068 um but
2069 as you can see with my
2070 my story
2071 there is some overlap
2072 to the traditional trans narrative
2073 it you add in
2074 like a little bit more clarity
2075 or a little bit more confidence
2076 about the gender that I felt I should have been
2077 like
2078 if I'd been like
2079 and this is all because I thought I should be a boy
2080 then it sounds like the traditional
2081 sort of
2082 transgender narrative
2083 um I mean
2084 to be perfectly honestly
2085 like
2086 I had no idea where any of this was coming from
2087 and I'm sure that that anxiety
2088 was linking to
2089 uh being trans
2090 um I'm sure that
2091 um dysphoria around my body
2092 and confusion about that sort of thing
2093 really fed into that
2094 but um
2095 I had no idea what it was at the time
2096 and to
2097 further place myself aside
2098 from the traditional trans-narrative
2099 when I finally became
2100 uh
2101 you know
2102 when I started going to high school and stuff
2103 and came out as queer
2104 as attracted to women
2105 I mean
2106 I did drag
2107 I'd find a lot of excuses to do drag

2108 uh at my school
2109 just in general events
2110 and dress up like a boy
2111 and uh um
2112 I still wore women's clothing
2113 uh I was very confused
2114 as to whether or not I was butch or femme
2115 or how I fit into dyke communities
2116 cuz I felt like I didn't in some way
2117 but it was still all very vague
2118 and I'd find ways to like
2119 pack at school
2120 even though I was wearing like
2121 women's clothing
2122 and uh
2123 I had compulsions
2124 but even when I found out
2125 what trans was
2126 and that trans people existed
2127 I mean I was very fascinated
2128 I was very interested
2129 um but there was no kind of
2130 eureka moment
2131 where I was like
2132 oh my god that's me
2133 thank god it all makes sense
2134 um
2135 basically what happened from there
2136 was I spent the next
2137 four years
2138 um gradually
2139 with my dysphoria sort of building
2140 more and more uh
2141 um agonizing over whether or not I should transition
2142 and my dysphoria began to look a little like this
2143 where I would have like
2144 these horrible dysphoric episodes
2145 and be like
2146 I need
2147 I must be trans
2148 maybe I'm trans
2149 and then all of the sudden
2150 I'd be fine again

2151 and I'd manage to push it out of my mind
2152 um and then I'd be so sure
2153 that I wasn't trans
2154 and so happy I didn't transition
2155 um uh
2156 and I'd kind of
2157 allow myself to forget
2158 that I was even trans-questioning
2159 um
2160 so I didn't realize that I was trans
2161 um uh
2162 I dunno
2163 until
2164 there
2165 there wasn't even a moment
2166 it just kinda
2167 like even when I started testosterone
2168 I identified as trans
2169 but I think
2170 because I didn't have that trans-narrative
2171 um i guess
2172 I almost
2173 didn't allow myself to believe I was legitimately trans
2174 um
2175 and that caused a lot of confusion
2176 for the first few months that I was on testosterone
2177 so I think it uh
2178 a very recent evolution for me
2179 to feel like
2180 yes
2181 I am trans
2182 I've had
2183 my
2184 my trans-experience has informed
2185 my entire life
2186 from the point of childhood on
2187 but I didn't realize what it was
2188 until very very recently
2189 and I didn't feel legitimate in that identity
2190 until very recently
2191 um so that
2192 I'm twenty-three
2193 early twenties

2194 uh and uh
2195 and I certainly didn't feel any pride over it
2196 until very recently
2197 um
2198 I am now very proud
2199 of who I am
2200 and um
2201 the experiences that have taken me
2202 to the place that I'm in now
2203 in my gender identity
2204 um
2205 um I feel extremely empowered
2206 I feel very sexy
2207 I feel um
2208 I feel really good
2209 for the first time in my life
2210 about my gender
2211 um and that's
2212 I think that I was waiting for testosterone to show me
2213 um
2214 the contrast between
2215 what it would feel like
2216 to be happy with your gender
2217 that I'd know by contrast
2218 that I was unhappy in the first place
2219 so it was kind of like
2220 I don't know what these feelings are
2221 now that I am happy with my gender
2222 I can see that pre-testosterone
2223 I was very very dysphoric
2224 confused
2225 and unhappy
2226 um and I still have
2227 a lot of very dysphoric moments
2228 but I'm at
2229 I'm in a place now where
2230 I'm trying to be as authentic as I can be
2231 and genuine as I can be
2232 to who I am
2233 um
2234 and I feel a lot of pride with
2235 pursuing the things that I've pursued
2236 and uh

2237 I dunno
 2238 I guess making this video
 2239 and talking about
 2240 my childhood
 2241 now that
 2242 now that I'm not
 2243 threatened by the possibility
 2244 that I might not really be trans
 2245 uh
 2246 that I can look back
 2247 and see the differences
 2248 between my story
 2249 and the traditional trans-narrative
 2250 um
 2251 so I just wanted to put that out there
 2252 in case anybody else sort of
 2253 shared that experience
 2254 and um
 2255 yeah
 2256 I'm wearing snappy suspenders
 2257 um
 2258 and I hope everybody is doing really well
 2259 um
 2260 and uh
 2261 yeah
 2262 I'll check in again soon
 2263 alright take care

NARRATIVE 7

ALionsFears. (2013, Jul. 30). I Didn't Know I Was Trans! [video file]. Retrieved from:
<http://youtu.be/0IER8uRj2Rs>

2264 what's good youtube
 2265 it is Aydian here
 2266 um
 2267 so
 2268 I'm making this video
 2269 because I always get asked the question
 2270 uh
 2271 how did you know you were trans
 2272 it's a very common question
 2273 and I know a lot of people get asked it
 2274 um

2275 so
2276 but
2277 before I get into that
2278 I have decided that a hysterectomy
2279 is something that needs to be done
2280 within the next few years
2281 um
2282 I've always been told
2283 within five years of starting T
2284 you should get a hysterectomy
2285 just for safety reasons
2286 um
2287 so
2288 pretty much
2289 what I decided to do was
2290 through point 5 cc
2291 I'm now going to take
2292 any of the profit made
2293 from any A Lion's Fear shirt made
2294 which
2295 this is one of them
2296 um
2297 any A Lion's Fear shirt sold
2298 and it's got the little needle <shows image of testosterone injection on arm of t-shirt>
2299 which can
2300 or cannot
2301 doesn't have to be there
2302 um
2303 if you don't want it there
2304 just write me a little email
2305 um
2306 so pretty much
2307 this shirt
2308 um
2309 it's like
2310 says
2311 a lion's fears
2312 in here
2313 um
2314 plus another a lion's fears design
2315 are both going to be
2316 um pretty much anything sold from them
2317 is going to go directly into that fund

2318 rather than the surgery fund
2319 that all the other shirts are donated to
2320 so um yeah
2321 that's pretty much that
2322 but um
2323 if you guys want to support me
2324 and you want to get a cool shirt in the process
2325 I'll put the link below
2326 you can uh
2327 get that shirt
2328 so
2329 any kinda shirt
2330 sold that has this design on it
2331 will go towards that
2332 which hopefully
2333 um you know
2334 hopefully you guys will get 'em
2335 and I can
2336 start saving some money
2337 <laugh>
2338 otherwise I do have a financial
2339 way of saving money too
2340 so hopefully between the two
2341 and I have health insurance
2342 so hopefully between the two
2343 I could get the
2344 I think it's like forty-five percent I need
2345 to cover
2346 and they cover the other
2347 uh fifty-five
2348 something like that
2349 so uh yeah
2350 besides that
2351 so
2352 how did I know I was transgender
2353 pretty much
2354 I decided to go about this topic
2355 in a way that might be a little different
2356 umm
2357 its
2358 really going to be called
2359 I didn't know I was transgender
2360 ok

2361 I was not one of the
2362 umm
2363 I'm gonna say
2364 I consider lucky or
2365 I guess
2366 well-knowledged
2367 people
2368 who knew at the age of three
2369 or four
2370 or five or six
2371 that they were not
2372 the gender that they were born at
2373 I grew up with two older brothers
2374 and was raised by my mother
2375 and saw my father every other weekend
2376 so
2377 pretty much it was me
2378 with two older brothers
2379 three years and six years older than me
2380 and then there was me
2381 I was the only girl in pretty much
2382 a whole side of the family
2383 both sides of the family
2384 my mothers and my father's side
2385 I was the only girl
2386 up until about I turned
2387 eight or nine
2388 ten
2389 something like that
2390 and I had a cousin
2391 who was born
2392 and then I didn't have another girl cousin until
2393 until about three years after that
2394 so
2395 I was the only girl
2396 um
2397 and
2398 I got to do what I wanted to do
2399 my brothers teased me
2400 they beat me up
2401 I beat them up
2402 I fake cried
2403 to get my mom to yell at them

2404 um
2405 I mean
2406 I played softball since I was about six
2407 I played soccer since I was like four
2408 I was on one of those baby leagues
2409 I played roller hockey
2410 I played um
2411 I skateboarded
2412 I roller bladed
2413 I mean I did everything
2414 and anything that I really wanted to do
2415 I uh
2416 my brothers
2417 would play karate
2418 and I would play karate with them
2419 and I would climb trees
2420 and I wore my brothers jerseys
2421 and um
2422 their clothes
2423 um you know
2424 I was considered a tomboy at the time
2425 that's what I was known as
2426 oh
2427 a tomboy
2428 you know
2429 and I was ok with that
2430 I used to actually get upset about it
2431 cuz I
2432 I didn't really know what it meant
2433 I just knew that they were making fun of me
2434 so I didn't want to be made fun of
2435 so I used to get really upset when people would call me a tomboy
2436 but I had a starter jacket that I would wear every day to school
2437 I would borrow my brother's
2438 my mom
2439 had um
2440 one year my mom got me this
2441 like girly bike
2442 it was like uh
2443 uh
2444 mountain bike
2445 for my birthday
2446 I mean for Christmas

2447 and I got so mad at her
2448 cuz all I wanted was a mongoose
2449 I don't know if you guys remember
2450 that like those were really cool
2451 in like 1996
2452 um I really wanted a mongoose
2453 with the pegs on the front
2454 and the back
2455 so I could do cool tricks
2456 you know
2457 that's all I wanted
2458 and I got this
2459 mountain bike
2460 and I was so pissed off about it
2461 looking back now
2462 I feel really bad about it
2463 cuz I am viewing it now from a parent's eyes
2464 not that I am a parent
2465 but you know
2466 um
2467 and I feel like that'd be
2468 the worst thing ever
2469 if I
2470 if I spent like three hundred dollars on something
2471 for my kid
2472 and then
2473 that morning they were like
2474 I fucking hate this
2475 <laugh>
2476 so point is
2477 I didn't really know I was transgender
2478 I didn't really have to know
2479 um I had a crush on somebody in third grade
2480 and my mom asked me
2481 the first thing she asked me
2482 uh I might of mentioned this story before
2483 but the first thing she asked me
2484 on the way home from like Wendy's
2485 is
2486 when I told them
2487 her that I had a crush on somebody
2488 she asked me is it a boy or a girl
2489 um

2490 so right off the bat
2491 I mean third grade
2492 I mean I don't even know how old you are in third grade
2493 but you're pretty young
2494 and my mom knew
2495 that something was up
2496 maybe she didn't know for sure
2497 maybe she had a hope in her heart
2498 that maybe I would be
2499 you know
2500 the little girl that she pretty much had embedded in her brain
2501 that she wanted
2502 but um
2503 she was open to things
2504 obviously
2505 um you know I
2506 I
2507 like I said
2508 I got to play all the sports
2509 I was
2510 I remember up until like fifth grade
2511 I was able to beat all the boys at arm wrestling
2512 all the boys were scared of me
2513 um
2514 and then
2515 you know
2516 I got into middle school
2517 and I started going to Catholic School
2518 I just knew that
2519 I would always wear shorts underneath my skirt
2520 because I hated the skirt
2521 girls used to
2522 roll their skirts
2523 like roll the top up
2524 and I used to
2525 roll it down so it would be longer
2526 I mean
2527 when I got into high school
2528 and I had to shave
2529 I would wear knee highs
2530 so I would only shave from here to here
2531 cuz this is where my skirt landed
2532 and this is where my knee high went

2533 so I only shaved there
2534 so down here was always nice and hairy
2535 um
2536 I mean
2537 I was always into sports
2538 so
2539 so being like a sporty girl
2540 I
2541 you know
2542 I knew I was a lesbian
2543 because I liked girls
2544 and that's just what I thought I was
2545 I just thought I was a sporty
2546 lesbian
2547 you know
2548 pardon my French
2549 butchy
2550 kind of lesbian
2551 and that's just
2552 what I thought I was
2553 and that's how
2554 I was ok with it
2555 you know what I mean
2556 I was
2557 started wearing boxer
2558 in like seventh grade
2559 um
2560 then I
2561 once I hit about
2562 twenty-one
2563 twenty-two
2564 I started noticing
2565 that something was definitely different
2566 and that's when I
2567 you know um
2568 realized that I was trans
2569 in that age
2570 and then
2571 I started transitioning
2572 like three years ago
2573 so I was like
2574 twenty-three when I actually started
2575 twenty-two

2576 twenty-three
2577 when I actually started
2578 I was actually twenty-two
2579 when I started transitioning in February
2580 and then I turned twenty-three over the summer
2581 and then I started hormones that fall
2582 so um
2583 you know
2584 I think with me
2585 once I found out
2586 I didn't know
2587 what transgender was
2588 I knew that there were
2589 all
2590 all I knew
2591 when I was younger
2592 is that some boys dress like women
2593 and most of them
2594 are prostitutes
2595 I mean
2596 I'm just being honest
2597 and I know now
2598 that that's totally a stereotype
2599 and it's
2600 totally not even really a correct stereotype
2601 but that's what I knew
2602 cuz I saw it in movies
2603 or I was flipping through the TV
2604 and watching something
2605 I shouldn't have been watching
2606 since I was too young
2607 you know what I mean
2608 I didn't know
2609 what transgender was
2610 I didn't know you could live that
2611 maybe if I knew that
2612 when I was younger
2613 maybe I would've
2614 um
2615 you know
2616 maybe I would have been more vocal about
2617 wanting to do that
2618 or maybe I would've known

2619 earlier
2620 that I wanted to do that
2621 but I didn't know I was transgender
2622 I didn't
2623 I had no idea
2624 um
2625 maybe if I lived in a house
2626 where you know
2627 I was
2628 being the girl
2629 I was made to do dishes
2630 or clean
2631 or cook
2632 you know
2633 do my nails
2634 or what
2635 you know
2636 I didn't have those pressures
2637 of doing that
2638 and honestly
2639 I
2640 I liked pink
2641 and my rooms were pink
2642 I loved stuffed animals
2643 and I loved beanie babies
2644 and I loved N'Sync when they came out
2645 and you know
2646 I loved
2647 all these girly things
2648 and that was ok
2649 and I loved all these
2650 "boy" things
2651 and that was ok too
2652 so to me I was just
2653 lucky enough
2654 to grow up
2655 in a household where
2656 um
2657 it was ok to be yourself
2658 whatever that self may be
2659 um
2660 as I got a little older
2661 I think my mom saw me

2662 changing a little bit more
2663 and maybe
2664 she used to press
2665 pocket books on me
2666 and dresses
2667 but I mean
2668 there came a point
2669 even when she stopped doing that
2670 because it was like
2671 listen
2672 I'm not wearing a dress
2673 you could dress me up in the coolest
2674 awesomest suit you want
2675 but I not gonna wear a dress
2676 and she caught on to that
2677 and right before I transitioned
2678 I had a good year
2679 or two of
2680 some like
2681 big heartbreaks
2682 and just
2683 you know
2684 I was going to community college
2685 and
2686 I didn't know what I was doing there
2687 and
2688 I didn't really have a job that I liked
2689 and you know
2690 I didn't even have a job at some point
2691 um
2692 so I started really
2693 venturing into like
2694 I lost a lot of weight
2695 in a very unhealthy way
2696 and um
2697 I started dressing very feminine
2698 and getting attention that way
2699 but I didn't really like it
2700 at the end of the day
2701 I was just
2702 like I went to prom in this
2703 hot little dress
2704 and uh

2705 I took it off after like
2706 two and a half hours
2707 because all I wanted to do was
2708 to show those people that like
2709 you know
2710 I am a human
2711 and I
2712 you know
2713 look at me
2714 instead of covering myself up in black
2715 and you know
2716 just being some like
2717 dykey lesbian
2718 from "high school"
2719 you know what I mean
2720 the only "out" girl
2721 in school
2722 um
2723 I showed up to prom
2724 in some hot little dress
2725 and everyone was like
2726 oh wow you look great oh wow
2727 and then I left
2728 cuz that's all I needed
2729 was for people to acknowledge me
2730 you know what I mean
2731 so
2732 I didn't know I was transgender
2733 I didn't
2734 do you know how I knew
2735 I
2736 um
2737 I was like
2738 on YouTube or something
2739 and a Maury
2740 a Maury clip came up
2741 about this guy
2742 who transitioned from female to male
2743 once I saw that
2744 I looked at the suggested videos
2745 and I watched video
2746 after video
2747 after video

2748 after video
2749 ahh video
2750 video
2751 and then oddly enough
2752 that same week
2753 my girlfriend at the time
2754 um
2755 she asked me
2756 hey
2757 you know
2758 do you ever think
2759 about being a man
2760 like
2761 just like that
2762 when we were driving home
2763 from somewhere one day
2764 and I was like
2765 you know
2766 it's really weird you said that
2767 because I just happened to look at these videos
2768 and then I showed her the videos
2769 and then we both got obsessed with watching videos
2770 and that's how I found out I was trans
2771 that's how I knew
2772 I mean
2773 YouTube really showed me
2774 that
2775 that was a life I wanted
2776 and literally
2777 I started that in like February
2778 of that year
2779 and by October
2780 I was on T
2781 because
2782 once I knew that was my
2783 I mean like
2784 I didn't have to go through
2785 all this horrible depression
2786 figuring out who I was
2787 I had one episode where I made all these things
2788 and I bought a packer
2789 and I bought a binder
2790 and I just got rid of all of it

2791 I deleted my YouTube
2792 I deleted this Facebook
2793 a twitter
2794 all this stuff
2795 um
2796 that's actually why
2797 it was originally A lion's fear
2798 one
2799 plu—and
2800 and then I had to make it get plural
2801 because I deleted that account
2802 and made a new one
2803 so now it's A lion's fears
2804 um
2805 so you know
2806 yeah
2807 I mean
2808 I didn't know
2809 and I don't think you do know
2810 and then all of the sudden
2811 something clicks
2812 like
2813 that's what happened to me
2814 something clicked
2815 and something inside of me said
2816 that's it
2817 that guy on there
2818 you're going to be that guy
2819 you know what I mean
2820 that's where you're supposed to be
2821 and once I started the path
2822 I made a really conscious effort
2823 to stay open
2824 about my emotions
2825 and YouTube helped me with that too
2826 by making videos
2827 and that's how I be
2828 discovered that I was trans
2829 I mean
2830 it wasn't hard for me
2831 once I figured it out
2832 I was very depressed
2833 um

2834 you know
2835 um
2836 throughout middle school
2837 and high school
2838 and I didn't know why
2839 and I was
2840 I was very depressed
2841 and I um
2842 I used to cut myself
2843 as a self
2844 like you know
2845 self-torturer
2846 you know
2847 whatever
2848 um
2849 I did that for a lot of years
2850 um
2851 you know
2852 I
2853 I
2854 I was a very depressed
2855 depressed kid
2856 um
2857 I had friends
2858 and I had family
2859 but I just
2860 I wasn't happy with myself
2861 and so I took it out on
2862 everything else that was around me
2863 and um
2864 yeah
2865 that's
2866 you know
2867 that's when I did my most
2868 thinking
2869 and emotions
2870 and I figured I was gay
2871 and then I was like
2872 ok that's cool
2873 and then I
2874 I found it ok
2875 with myself
2876 being more of the masculine

2877 and that was cool
2878 and you know
2879 but I just never
2880 felt complete
2881 and once I
2882 discovered
2883 what trans was
2884 I felt that
2885 little gap
2886 close
2887 um
2888 and I just went with it
2889 I mean
2890 I just
2891 it was like
2892 like
2893 you know
2894 finding
2895 I dunno
2896 a good analogy
2897 but like you know
2898 like
2899 like
2900 once you get behind the wheel
2901 the first time ever
2902 you're scared shitless
2903 and then the third time
2904 you're like
2905 this is my car
2906 and I got a driver's license
2907 and I'm fucking driving
2908 screw all you people
2909 I'm driving whenever
2910 wherever
2911 I don't care
2912 where I'm going
2913 I'll just drive
2914 you know what I mean
2915 um
2916 and it was kind of like that
2917 it was like
2918 once I got the car
2919 once I got in the car

2920 once I drove it around once
2921 for a test drive
2922 I was like
2923 alright
2924 this is my car
2925 let's go
2926 let's buck it
2927 you know what I mean
2928 like
2929 it was easy
2930 I didn't have to think twice about it
2931 it just went
2932 I followed all the steps
2933 I did all the research
2934 I
2935 I traveled an hour and forty-five minutes to
2936 uh
2937 to therapy
2938 and
2939 to the clinic
2940 where the therapist was
2941 and to get my shots
2942 and all that stuff
2943 I mean I did a
2944 I paid all this money
2945 out the ass
2946 to get there
2947 to be seen
2948 I frickin'
2949 had to drive to the other side
2950 of where I was at
2951 I was driving to the city
2952 and then I was driving all the way
2953 out east
2954 just to get my name changed
2955 and like
2956 you know
2957 it was a big process
2958 but all of it felt relevant
2959 it felt like
2960 that's what I was supposed to be doing
2961 and I was
2962 although it was a pain in the ass

2963 I was happy
2964 with every pain in the ass
2965 thing I had to do
2966 because
2967 it was one step closer
2968 to filling the gap
2969 um
2970 yeah
2971 so I mean I didn't know I was trans
2972 you want to know
2973 how
2974 oh you know
2975 oh how did I know I was trans
2976 I didn't know
2977 I wasn't six
2978 I wasn't twelve
2979 I wasn't eighteen
2980 I was twenty-two
2981 twenty-three years old
2982 when I discovered I was trans
2983 that's when I knew
2984 that's when
2985 I has lived all this life
2986 and I was like
2987 you know
2988 I'm alright with myself
2989 but something's not right
2990 something's
2991 still not right
2992 and once I found that piece
2993 I just shoved that shit in
2994 and I was like
2995 let's go
2996 you know what I mean
2997 so
2998 alright
2999 that's my response
3000 fifteen
3001 sixteen minutes later
3002 alright guys
3003 and if you'd like to support me
3004 and uh
3005 my hysterectomy

3006 please go to the point 5 cc t-shirt company dot com
3007 buy one of these awesome shirts
3008 there's another
3009 a Lion's Fears
3010 uh
3011 version of this shirt too
3012 that also counts
3013 and if you like any of the other shirts
3014 on there
3015 or
3016 oh I'm not wearing that hat now
3017 but any of the hats
3018 you know
3019 anything I got on there
3020 you know
3021 everything goes towards
3022 supporting a surgery
3023 so if you wanna be a cool guy
3024 cool girl
3025 cool ally
3026 and you wanna support someone's surgery
3027 but you don't have a hundred dollars to spend
3028 go buy a shirt
3029 you know
3030 spend twenty-five dollars
3031 including shipping
3032 and
3033 you know
3034 support someone
3035 it's an awesome thing to do
3036 and
3037 we got some big things coming up for point five cc too
3038 so keep your eye out for that
3039 I'm kind of excited
3040 but I don't want to say nothing yet
3041 but uh, you know
3042 get myself out there
3043 alright guys
3044 that's it
3045 alright
3046 peace
<end 16.48>

NARRATIVE 8

INFJandFTM. (2013, Aug. 21). FTM: How I knew I was trans. [video file]. Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/fmzLiyJO9gs>

3047 hey guys
3048 Oz here
3049 and today's video is called
3050 how I knew I was trans so I would like to tell you how I knew
3051 I was trans
3052 but first
3053 I wanna tell you that
3054 even in transgender community
3055 even then
3056 even there
3057 are stereotypes
3058 and when you don't fit into the stereotypes
3059 it doesn't mean you're not trans
3060 there is a lot of
3061 a lot of guys
3062 and they say
3063 that
3064 they knew
3065 they were
3066 trans when they were three years old
3067 they knew that something was wrong
3068 when they were two years old
3069 like what
3070 when I was two I didn't know anything
3071 and when I was three all knew was that
3072 I want my mom
3073 I want food
3074 and I want to play
3075 I didn't care about gender
3076 I didn't care about gender roles at all
3077 so that's just what I wanted to tell you
3078 that you know
3079 don't care about stereotypes
3080 just be yourself because
3081 you
3082 are an amazing human being
3083 you are an amazing individual
3084 and that's what makes this world beautiful
3085 everybody's different

3086 (camera cut)
3087 so now
3088 back to topic
3089 how I knew I was trans
3090 when I was questioning my gender identity
3091 I
3092 or my gender
3093 I wasn't looking into the past
3094 as much as I was looking into the future
3095 so I wasn't like
3096 ok I always wanted to
3097 wear boys clothes
3098 so that means I'm trans
3099 uh
3100 of course I didn't
3101 but
3102 not that much
3103 I was like
3104 asking myself
3105 where do I see myself in next two years
3106 or twenty years
3107 do I see myself as a girl
3108 do I see myself as a woman
3109 or do I see myself as a man
3110 do I see myself as a mother
3111 or as a father
3112 and
3113 it actually helped me
3114 and I realized that I
3115 can't imagine myself
3116 living as a woman
3117 I just couldn't imagine this
3118 you know
3119 I can't be a mother
3120 because I'm not a woman
3121 I'm not a female
3122 like
3123 I can't be a mother
3124 I would love to be a father to
3125 father to a child
3126 to go out with a child and play
3127 and you know
3128 play football

3129 something or
3130 doesn't mean I want son
3131 I
3132 you know
3133 I
3134 actually I would like to have
3135 a son and a daughter
3136 like
3137 one son and one daughter
3138 would be amazing
3139 so
3140 that's how I see
3141 how I see myself
3142 in future
3143 and of course I was
3144 when I was little
3145 I was dressing like a boy
3146 I played with cars
3147 like the little cars
3148 and you push them
3149 you know
3150 and I
3151 you know
3152 I
3153 I played
3154 I played football
3155 and I had friends like
3156 boys
3157 were mostly my friends
3158 but not all the time
3159 when I was in kindergarten
3160 I was a very shy
3161 and I wasn't very social
3162 I was the one who was sitting
3163 in the corner and
3164 drawing
3165 and don't talk to anyone
3166 don't play with anyone
3167 because I was really shy
3168 and I'm still shy
3169 but
3170 when I
3171 when I started primary school

3172 I
3173 I hated kindergarten
3174 so it was amazing
3175 primary school
3176 I had a lot of friends
3177 and we were having good time
3178 and learning
3179 I was learning new things
3180 language and mathematics
3181 it was just great
3182 and when I got older
3183 I started to dress more like a girl
3184 because my best friend
3185 she
3186 actually she was my best friend for
3187 for three years
3188 and then I was ill
3189 so I stayed
3190 I stayed home for one week
3191 and during the one week
3192 she started to bully me
3193 like
3194 I didn't know why
3195 what happened?
3196 and now I
3197 now I know it was just a puberty
3198 and the bullying didn't last longer than one month
3199 so it was ok
3200 and then we were actually able to
3201 talk together
3202 we weren't
3203 we weren't friends
3204 but we were able to talk together
3205 and we were just classmates so
3206 yep
3207 and this girl told me that
3208 I should shave my legs
3209 and I should dress like a girl
3210 because I am a girl
3211 so I thought that
3212 ok maybe I would feel more girly
3213 when I will do all those things
3214 so I spent like

3215 two or three years
3216 dressing up like a girl
3217 but I didn't feel comf
3218 but I didn't feel comfortable at all
3219 and one day I was
3220 I was standing in front of mirror
3221 and I was watching myself
3222 and
3223 I can't even describe the feeling
3224 and
3225 I was a bit scared of the feeling
3226 because I felt disgusted
3227 and you know
3228 I wasn't fat
3229 I wasn't too slim
3230 I was just a normal
3231 normal fifteen year old girl
3232 like physically
3233 so I didn't know what's happening
3234 why I hated myself
3235 and when I put on something very girly I
3236 I just felt
3237 I felt like naked
3238 you know
3239 go outside naked
3240 how would you feel
3241 that how I felt when I was wearing
3242 [cough] sorry
3243 when I was wearing
3244 girl's fashion
3245 so that time
3246 I still didn't know I was trans
3247 and
3248 (camera cut)
3249 I was just like
3250 ok I'm strange girl
3251 I always thought it
3252 I'm
3253 I'm strange girl
3254 and then my
3255 guinea pig unfortunately died
3256 uh
3257 and at first I didn't want

3258 any other guinea pig
3259 because she was the only one for me
3260 but a month later
3261 I started to search the internet
3262 and you know I was
3263 I decided I wanted another guinea pig
3264 so I searched for a different color
3265 different kinds of guinea pigs
3266 and I was on YouTube
3267 and I was watching a video
3268 uh
3269 and there was some
3270 there was some guinea pigs you know
3271 when you're watching a video on YouTube
3272 on the right side there is the column
3273 with the videos you might like
3274 and there was a video called
3275 transgender kids
3276 one part
3277 first part of six
3278 so I clicked on it
3279 and that time
3280 all I knew
3281 all I knew about transgender people was
3282 that they exist
3283 I remember when I was eight
3284 my mom and I
3285 we watched a documentary
3286 about female to male transition
3287 and I was eight so I was like
3288 oh it's really possible to change this
3289 and we were watching this
3290 and I was like
3291 wow
3292 and my mom was like
3293 but please never do this
3294 and I don't remember what I said
3295 but I was fascinated by it
3296 but then I forgot it
3297 and it was forgotten
3298 for next eight years
3299 because I realized that I'm trans when I was sixteen
3300 or late fifteen

3301 I'm not
3302 not sure
3303 um
3304 so
3305 I click on the video
3306 and I watched it
3307 and I was like
3308 oh my god
3309 that's
3310 that's me
3311 that's exactly how I felt when I was
3312 twelve or ten
3313 that's exactly how I felt
3314 but I still didn't know
3315 didn't know that it's uh
3316 that a transition is possible
3317 even for me
3318 like here
3319 in Czech Republic
3320 and I didn't know that
3321 I can start transition even when I'm
3322 not a child
3323 anymore
3324 so
3325 after this video
3326 I searched the internet
3327 I searched so uh
3328 many many videos
3329 so
3330 F to M videos
3331 and I started to question my gender
3332 and as I said
3333 I was looking more into the future than into the past
3334 and it took me a year
3335 to actually be sure
3336 that I am transgender
3337 so it took me a year
3338 and I'm telling you this because
3339 you know
3340 transition is not something you should rush into
3341 you know
3342 because
3343 just think about it

3344 take your time
3345 because it's
3346 it's very difficult
3347 transitioning is very difficult
3348 not just physically
3349 but emotionally
3350 so don't rush into anything
3351 because one day you may
3352 might think that you are transgender
3353 and you'll
3354 you'll go through a coming out
3355 and you will tell everybody that you are trans
3356 and another day you will think
3357 ok maybe I'm not trans
3358 maybe I'm just a butch
3359 so don't rush into anything
3360 think about it and
3361 believe me
3362 one day you will figure it out
3363 is the same like
3364 with coming out
3365 I wanted to come
3366 come out like
3367 many times
3368 but I just still wasn't sure
3369 and then one day I woke up and
3370 I was like
3371 ok
3372 I'm going to come out today because I feel ready
3373 so
3374 believe me
3375 one day it will come
3376 so that's basically how I knew I was trans
3377 and yeah
3378 be yourself
3379 love yourself
3380 and
3381 see you later
3382 bye

NARRATIVE 9

Jaythefoxprince. (April 12, 2013). How I knew I was transgender. [video file] retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/rSFwC9U4kio>

3383 hey guys
3384 um
3385 I'm going to be explaining
3386 my story of how I knew I was trans
3387 because
3388 I didn't just know
3389 from when I was a kid
3390 um I know a lot of
3391 trans people
3392 know
3393 when they're a kid and
3394 they just don't really say anything or
3395 you know
3396 they try
3397 but their parents ???
3398 so they can't do anything til their older
3399 or they just don't know what trans is
3400 and later they do
3401 but I didn't know when I was a kid
3402 I only knew a few years back
3403 so
3404 I'll first start talking about my childhood
3405 I mean
3406 I didn't think that like
3407 I should be a boy
3408 but
3409 like when
3410 I was a child
3411 but now looking back on my childhood
3412 I can see
3413 the things that
3414 are kinda like
3415 signs that
3416 I was trans or like
3417 now that I look back
3418 it makes a lot of sense
3419 you know
3420 I was like
3421 i was really a tomboy
3422 my mom could not get me into a dress

3423 even when like
3424 before I could barely talk
3425 and yeah
3426 I just never really
3427 got into anything girly
3428 and my mom hated it
3429 cuz she really wanted a girl
3430 and you know
3431 and I played with my brother a lot
3432 my older brother
3433 um we would always like play with like
3434 bionicals and legos
3435 and video games
3436 and stuff like that
3437 so
3438 I was lucky to have a brother to do that stuff with
3439 so I could have a comfortable childhood
3440 and not be forced into these really girly things
3441 you know
3442 um
3443 one thing I really noticed
3444 that I didn't really pay attention to back then
3445 is I used to have these dreams
3446 where um
3447 I would
3448 you know
3449 like when you can um
3450 you can kinda shape a dream
3451 that way that you want
3452 like physically
3453 if you realize that you're dreaming
3454 and I would have these dreams a lot
3455 where I would try to like
3456 take off my shirt
3457 and I would try to
3458 I would make sure that my chest would be male and flat underneath
3459 and I did the same thing for the bottom area too
3460 it was really weird
3461 I didn't really think anything of it
3462 until
3463 I thought about it now
3464 so
3465 yeah

3466 that's just
3467 um and
3468 as I saw some like
3469 family friends who were older growing up
3470 um
3471 I would always
3472 I'd see them
3473 like a girl
3474 and she would be dressing more like
3475 feminine
3476 and being like you know
3477 teenager girl
3478 and I was always worrying
3479 like
3480 oh god
3481 I can't
3482 what am I supposed to do
3483 like
3484 I cannot dress like that
3485 and I cannot act like that
3486 I just didn't know
3487 I was really scared
3488 when I was a kid
3489 so yeah
3490 that's pretty much
3491 hmm
3492 most of my childhood
3493 gender-wise summed up
3494 so I'll come to
3495 how I discovered about trans people
3496 in the first place
3497 so
3498 I was into cosplay
3499 um
3500 yeah
3501 cuz my friends got me into it
3502 cuz I was
3503 I always liked animae anyways
3504 but yeah
3505 anyway
3506 um
3507 this one coz player is pretty famous
3508 his name is Twinfolds

3509 I'm sure if you know cosplay
3510 or animae
3511 or trans guys
3512 you ma
3513 most likely have heard of him
3514 he's pretty famous
3515 as a cosplayer
3516 and
3517 um
3518 before like
3519 about the time
3520 I started like
3521 following him
3522 on his channel
3523 on his YouTube channel
3524 and everything
3525 he posted this
3526 um
3527 like a transgender announcement
3528 and I was like
3529 I just didn't really think of it back then
3530 but I was just like
3531 oh
3532 oh that's interesting
3533 and I didn't start thinking about it
3534 until he starting posting things like
3535 um
3536 like few months T
3537 and everything
3538 through his transition
3539 he kept posting
3540 you know
3541 updates about it
3542 and I would watch them
3543 cuz I thought that it was kinda interesting
3544 and I remember thinking to myself like
3545 whoa that
3546 that'd be like a
3547 a horrible thing to have to go through
3548 like
3549 having to
3550 having that
3551 feeling about your body

3552 that it's just so wrong
3553 and that you have to take hormones
3554 and do surgery
3555 to
3556 feel ok with that
3557 and now I realize that that was
3558 kind of another sign that it's like
3559 kind of a denial thing
3560 like
3561 you know like
3562 I don't think
3563 I mean of course you
3564 like feel like
3565 kinda sympathetic
3566 if you think about that position
3567 because it's like
3568 oh yeah
3569 that's a really horrible thing
3570 but the
3571 I saw that I was thinking about it
3572 because that's actually
3573 how I felt on the inside
3574 the dysphoria
3575 and everything
3576 that's how I felt on the inside
3577 I just didn't really know it yet
3578 um
3579 so yeah
3580 about
3581 that was about
3582 that was like
3583 sophomore year
3584 no no no
3585 like the end of freshman
3586 I dunno
3587 it was about like three
3588 three years ago
3589 or something
3590 that's when I discovered
3591 what trans was
3592 like
3593 of course
3594 like everyone know that

3595 like
3596 you hear about like
3597 like "sex changes"
3598 and stuff
3599 in the media
3600 but you know
3601 they make it seem like
3602 it's like
3603 a freak of nature
3604 kind of thing
3605 but um
3606 seeing like an actual person
3607 going through their transition
3608 um
3609 kinda like
3610 gave me like
3611 more like
3612 human side of it
3613 other than
3614 how the media is like
3615 oh
3616 Cher's daughter's a boy now
3617 you know
3618 umm
3619 so yeah
3620 um
3621 Twinfolds
3622 yeah
3623 he's pretty awesome
3624 you should follow him
3625 he's cool
3626 um
3627 I really look up to him
3628 so then yeah
3629 so
3630 by the end of sophomore year
3631 I changed
3632 I actually changed my name
3633 cuz my birth name way
3634 or like
3635 not like
3636 legally
3637 but my birth name

3638 was really feminine
3639 it like
3640 one of those like
3641 really like
3642 preppy white girl names
3643 like
3644 <laughs>
3645 I can't stand it
3646 so I actually got my friends
3647 and classmates to start
3648 and teachers
3649 to start calling me Ronnie
3650 because
3651 I felt that it fit me more
3652 and
3653 yeah
3654 I felt a lot more comfortable that way
3655 so
3656 yeah
3657 that was going pretty good
3658 and I think already then
3659 I was kind of
3660 by then
3661 when I changed my name
3662 I already knew
3663 I was kind of questioning
3664 if maybe I was trans
3665 cuz
3666 I remember talking to one of my best friends about it
3667 and I was really uncomfortable with the idea
3668 cuz it really really scared me
3669 I remember I used to
3670 um
3671 when we were talking about it
3672 I used to
3673 make her use like a code word
3674 because I didn't like the word transgender
3675 cuz it scared me so much
3676 so she called it like
3677 peanut butter
3678 so she'd use that
3679 like as a code word
3680 instead

3681 which is pretty ironic
3682 because I'm allergic to peanut butter
3683 so yeah
3684 so yeah
3685 around the time that I changed my name
3686 two of my like friends
3687 kinda
3688 classmates
3689 they actually came out as trans
3690 came out female to male also
3691 and um
3692 I remember I was a bit jealous
3693 because I guess I was jealous
3694 that I couldn't do the same
3695 cuz I was too scared
3696 or I wasn't completely sure
3697 or anything
3698 so I was just kinda lost
3699 so yeah
3700 it was just
3701 I had weird feelings about it
3702 like
3703 of course I was happy for them
3704 but I was kind of
3705 jealous
3706 because I felt like
3707 I couldn't do the same yet
3708 cuz I wasn't completely sure
3709 and
3710 I was scared
3711 so
3712 I kind of
3713 adopted a more
3714 like kind of a
3715 gender fluid kind of
3716 identity
3717 I mean
3718 I didn't actually use that word
3719 but
3720 when like
3721 when people would ask
3722 or if people would ever ask
3723 or

3724 I'd just be like
3725 oh
3726 I'm just human
3727 I mean
3728 I'm not really a gender
3729 but yeah
3730 cuz
3731 I didn't really want to think about
3732 having to change and whatnot
3733 so
3734 following that discovery
3735 was this huge
3736 long period of denial
3737 um
3738 I thought it was
3739 well
3740 it's denial
3741 and confusion
3742 I realize now
3743 that I was confused
3744 because I was trans
3745 I was denying it
3746 because of my fears
3747 and everything
3748 so I kind of like
3749 switched back and forth
3750 like
3751 I'd be like
3752 yeah um
3753 I'm a tomboy
3754 and I'd be like
3755 sometimes I'd be like
3756 no this isn't right
3757 my body's wrong
3758 and I'd be like
3759 I'm a boy
3760 but um
3761 it was really hard
3762 because then and
3763 I'd do these stupid things
3764 like
3765 I'd compare myself
3766 to like

3767 stereotypic men
3768 like on TV
3769 and stuff
3770 and I'd be like
3771 that's not me at all
3772 I can't physically
3773 mentally
3774 that's not me
3775 and that was a really stupid thing to do
3776 because TV shows they
3777 they always portray
3778 like
3779 especially like comedies
3780 and stuff
3781 they always portray guys
3782 as these like total like
3783 buff
3784 oh I'm
3785 so
3786 cool
3787 and most of them end up
3788 being like a total douche anyway
3789 but they're always like these big guys
3790 and even the underdog guys are still like
3791 kind of
3792 you know
3793 they're not
3794 like
3795 they're not the same as like
3796 underdog guys in real life
3797 um
3798 so yeah
3799 I was
3800 it was really bad
3801 so then I thought
3802 like
3803 it's easier to just be a tom boy
3804 because I can't act
3805 I can't "act"
3806 like a stereotypic guy
3807 or whatever
3808 so
3809 there were actually some points

3810 um
3811 through this time
3812 when I would
3813 try to get myself to be like
3814 yeah
3815 we
3816 I can try
3817 to start dressing a little bit more feminine
3818 and try to act a little bit more feminine
3819 but
3820 I didn't actually even go through with it
3821 it was more like a thought
3822 like
3823 I can try
3824 let's try this
3825 but if I ever actually like
3826 tried like
3827 by like buying
3828 like a shirt that was like
3829 more like
3830 not even that bad but like
3831 like more feminine
3832 I could not
3833 I could not even
3834 wear it
3835 I was just too uncomfortable
3836 I can't
3837 I can't wear anything that's like
3838 not male
3839 or unisex
3840 um
3841 with like shirts
3842 cuz you know that they like
3843 give that like curvy shape
3844 so I could not do that anymore
3845 I was just
3846 it was just
3847 felt so uncomfortable
3848 and yeah so
3849 I never actually like
3850 I know a lot of trans guys
3851 before they
3852 when they're in denial

3853 they like go into this complete like
3854 feminine mode
3855 where they try so hard to be a girl
3856 and it just like
3857 kinda confuses people
3858 because then they're like
3859 whoa
3860 you're a boy now
3861 it's like what
3862 you like
3863 acted so much like a girl
3864 and looked so much like a girl before
3865 so
3866 but yeah
3867 I didn't have that
3868 so it's a little bit easier for people to accept me
3869 cuz I was always this tomboy
3870 kinda person
3871 um
3872 so yeah
3873 I actually um
3874 a few years back
3875 I told my parents
3876 I told my mom first
3877 and she
3878 she seemed like
3879 like she
3880 she was paying attention and everything
3881 and
3882 it was like this really big ehh
3883 it was
3884 it wasn't that great
3885 but
3886 after that
3887 she completely swept it under the rug
3888 and she did not mention it
3889 or anything
3890 ever again
3891 until my dad
3892 just told her again recently
3893 and she claimed
3894 that she'd never heard anything about it
3895 so

3896 that was kinda interesting
3897 I dunno
3898 if she was that
3899 that much denial
3900 that she completely forgot that I told her
3901 or what
3902 if she just thought it was some random phase
3903 I don't really know
3904 so
3905 about like a year after I told her the first time
3906 um
3907 I told my dad
3908 and he made this
3909 horrible
3910 horrible joke about it
3911 it was the worst joke
3912 I have ever
3913 ever
3914 it was like
3915 possibly the worst thing he could ever
3916 say at that point
3917 when I just told him
3918 so
3919 it was a horrible
3920 that's kinda one thing
3921 that my dad does
3922 he makes jokes
3923 when he doesn't understand things
3924 or just
3925 to lighten the mood
3926 but it was hor
3927 it was horrible
3928 but he
3929 he like apologized for it later
3930 and he didn't really understand
3931 how offensive he was being
3932 and he kinda slipped it under the rug too
3933 until he kinda had to address it
3934 because I had
3935 like
3936 I had like really bad
3937 like severe anxiety
3938 and anxiety attacks

3939 and like fear
3940 like months back
3941 I mean it wasn't
3942 it was
3943 it wasn't that long ago
3944 but it was
3945 a long time ago
3946 it feels like
3947 it feels like a really long time ago
3948 but
3949 yeah
3950 that um
3951 after that he had to
3952 um
3953 address it
3954 because he thought that it
3955 maybe it was one of the causes
3956 so that's how he finally
3957 addressed it
3958 and that's how they
3959 kind of address it
3960 but they're still having trouble
3961 you know
3962 adjusting
3963 so
3964 to actually accept the fact
3965 or like even
3966 even after I told them
3967 that I was trans
3968 I still like
3969 after that
3970 even after I told them
3971 I still like
3972 kind of
3973 went back and forth
3974 like nevermind
3975 I'm a tomboy
3976 especially after their reactions
3977 cuz it was like
3978 it was like
3979 they're not gonna take me seriously anyway
3980 I mean
3981 maybe there's like a reason

3982 that they're not taking me seriously
3983 or maybe I should
3984 just
3985 I'll just be like a tomboy
3986 that's ok
3987 but of course
3988 that's not ok
3989 cuz I am
3990 who I am
3991 so I had to
3992 I had to realize all of my fears
3993 that were the reason I was denying it
3994 so
3995 I had to realize that
3996 I had to accept the fact that
3997 I was afraid
3998 it was just fear
3999 and I had to move past that fear
4000 so that I could
4001 move on
4002 start transitioning
4003 so I could
4004 be myself
4005 and be ok with myself
4006 so
4007 the fears that I have
4008 are um
4009 the medical side of it
4010 of course
4011 I mean that sounds like
4012 sounds
4013 pretty terrifying
4014 I mean
4015 doing these things to your body
4016 injecting hormones into yourself
4017 and the fact that you have to
4018 probably most people
4019 you have to take it your whole life
4020 unless you don't
4021 unless you want to stop it
4022 if you get a hysterectomy
4023 you pretty much have to take it your whole life
4024 and it's better to get a hysterectomy

4025 because
4026 um
4027 I mean
4028 it's not proven
4029 but
4030 there's
4031 um
4032 it can
4033 be very harmful
4034 it's
4035 I mean
4036 sorry
4037 I'm bad at explaining this
4038 but um
4039 it's pretty much better
4040 to get a hysterectomy
4041 after being on T for a while
4042 because
4043 um
4044 the conflicting hormones
4045 like
4046 attacking with each other
4047 is not good
4048 for your body
4049 and um
4050 having all that stuff down there
4051 um with
4052 while you're having
4053 getting testosterone
4054 is
4055 it can lead to
4056 a lot of
4057 problems like
4058 um
4059 I'm just sure
4060 like
4061 it like
4062 increases the chances of uterus cancer
4063 like
4064 a lot
4065 so
4066 it's yeah
4067 I don't know

4068 I am getting off course
4069 um so yeah
4070 I was really scared of the medical side of it
4071 because I mean
4072 I'm
4073 I'm actually scared of hospitals
4074 so
4075 I mean thinking about
4076 having surgery
4077 is just really scary
4078 you know
4079 and yeah
4080 um so
4081 also the social side
4082 is really scary too
4083 because
4084 like
4085 I mean
4086 if you think like
4087 what is everyone going to think
4088 I mean
4089 I mean
4090 and then you think like
4091 really outrageous things like
4092 what if I'm
4093 am I gonna get like murdered for this
4094 am I gonna get beat up
4095 I mean
4096 um
4097 it really is
4098 it is
4099 people
4100 depending where you are
4101 but in my area
4102 people are a lot more accepting
4103 then I thought they would be so
4104 you know
4105 and then the third thing
4106 that I really was scared of
4107 was
4108 the fact that
4109 being transgender is a lot harder
4110 than just

4111 being a tomboy
4112 you know
4113 cuz you have to do all this
4114 you know
4115 all those things that I was afraid of
4116 it just makes it way harder
4117 um so
4118 yeah
4119 so I had to
4120 accept that
4121 I was
4122 I'm not that tough
4123 and I'm not
4124 I'm gonna be
4125 a short
4126 a short guy
4127 that's ok
4128 I had to accept that
4129 because that was another reason I was thinking like
4130 I'm
4131 I'm
4132 I'm short
4133 I'm like
4134 this little weakling
4135 I can't be a boy
4136 but
4137 I mean
4138 that's just stupid
4139 I can't hold myself back
4140 from being who I am
4141 just because of these physical things I can't change
4142 and there are some things I can change
4143 I mean
4144 yeah
4145 I'm not
4146 I'm not that tough
4147 and I'm like
4148 kinda small built in the first place
4149 but I mean
4150 I work out
4151 and I mean I got
4152 it's not that bad
4153 you know

4154 I mean
4155 I'm not some like
4156 huge buff guy
4157 but
4158 I mean
4159 I can pass as a guy
4160 some guys are short
4161 it's ok
4162 and that's pretty much
4163 how I knew
4164 it was really confusing
4165 it took years
4166 but
4167 I just had to think it through
4168 I had to
4169 pick it all apart
4170 the pieces of denial
4171 the fears
4172 and I had to stop being so afraid
4173 so I hope my story
4174 will have helped someone
4175 in some way
4176 and if you have any questions
4177 you can ask me
4178 um
4179 yeah
4180 if you
4181 I mean
4182 nobody can really tell you
4183 if you are trans or not
4184 because that's something you have to figure out yourself
4185 but
4186 I mean
4187 some people's stories
4188 and points that they make
4189 can help
4190 so
4191 feel free to ask me any questions if you want
4192 yeah
4193 see you guys later
<end 17:27>

NARRATIVE 10

BluntedFSharps. (2014, May 27). FtM Transgender: Why I Quit Testosterone. [video file]. Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/HP3sBFDp9js>

4194 I think that I
4195 I really need to begin this video with
4196 saying that the reason I knew I was transgender
4197 and the reason that I've heard a lot of my transgender friends echo
4198 is um
4199 because I have body dysphoria
4200 and if you are cisgender
4201 and you've never experienced body dysphoria
4202 I just want to emphasize that it is a very real thing
4203 and it's also really difficult to explain to somebody who has never experienced it before
4204 but basically we have
4205 two gender maps of our body
4206 we have the physical
4207 visible map
4208 of our bodies
4209 and what they actually look like
4210 and then we have the
4211 map of our bodies
4212 in our brains
4213 now for cisgender people
4214 um there's no real incongruence between
4215 um the map in their brain and the map of their body
4216 but for me being transgender
4217 the map in my brain
4218 developed differently from the map of my body
4219 um so that
4220 since I was
4221 you know
4222 very very young
4223 before I was even old enough
4224 to be conscious of myself
4225 as a living creature
4226 I knew my body to be shaped like that of a males
4227 from what my gender map in my brain told me
4228 the map in my brain told me that
4229 body occupied space that it could not physically fill
4230 I know it's weird
4231 it's been compared to
4232 phantom limb syndrome
4233 where amputee patients

4234 can still
4235 physically feel
4236 um sensation in limbs that they don't physically have anymore
4237 because their brain still has a map of their body
4238 and whatever it looks like
4239 and the space
4240 that it fills
4241 and its still sending signals to pieces of their body that don't physically exist anymore
4242 um the brain is very very powerful like that
4243 it controls a lot of that stuff
4244 um <clears throat>
4245 but
4246 and that was a basic rundown
4247 of body dysphoria
4248 so moving forward from that
4249 I decided that hormones and surgery were right for me
4250 because I needed to align my brain with my body
4251 you know for someone who has body dysphoria
4252 the static
4253 um
4254 of their incongruence
4255 pretty much gets in the way of everything
4256 its really really hard to focus on living a normal
4257 functioning life
4258 when there's so much static going on
4259 because your
4260 I mean your soul is essentially in the wrong vessel
4261 and its very uncomfortable
4262 and society is always reinforcing that incongruence with
4263 mixed pronouns
4264 and invasive questions about your genitals
4265 and degrading comments about your appearance
4266 and your behavior
4267 and then just general isolation from the clan of
4268 normal
4269 cisgender
4270 functioning individuals
4271 so this is this is
4272 the idea that was sold to me
4273 by the medical community
4274 that I would find congruence
4275 as my hormones aligned my brain with my body
4276 you know I thought that as soon as I went on testosterone

4277 my body was going to do this song and dance
4278 um like
4279 yes that is the stuff
4280 that is the stuff
4281 that we have been missing all these years
4282 all these years
4283 all these years
4284 where did you find that
4285 where did you find that
4286 now that we have that
4287 we are complete
4288 we're good
4289 we're set for life
4290 we're good
4291 but that
4292 that didn't happen
4293 outwardly
4294 there was
4295 there was congruence
4296 you know
4297 I passed as a male 100 percent of the time
4298 I got the pronoun that I wanted
4299 nobody gave me shit anymore
4300 that part of my life had improved immensely
4301 immensely
4302 in here <touches chest>
4303 there was
4304 there was
4305 no aligning of the planets
4306 there was only sacrifice
4307 over time I watched the people
4308 the few people
4309 close to me
4310 who has not disowned me
4311 I watched them come to look at me
4312 and not recognize me
4313 it got to the point where
4314 one day I looked in the mirror
4315 and I ran my hand across my thickening jaw line
4316 and across my stubble
4317 that I had waited for so long for
4318 so so long for that stubble
4319 and I looked in the mirror and

4320 I didn't know who I was
4321 and I felt like a traitor
4322 I missed myself
4323 and I realized
4324 this is not harmony
4325 this is just one more day of hiding
4326 I can hide
4327 I can hide
4328 my birth
4329 I can hide my socialization
4330 I can hide my feminine face
4331 everything
4332 behind this jawline
4333 behind this facial hair
4334 and that's all that I had ever wanted
4335 that's all I had ever wanted was to pass
4336 as male
4337 not as female
4338 not as transgender
4339 just as male
4340 and passing ended up denying me
4341 my right
4342 to a history
4343 and I have a very rich history
4344 and a very good story because of who I am
4345 and if people look straight through me
4346 and see just a he
4347 just a sir
4348 then that history has been erased
4349 I had silenced myself for a pronoun
4350 it is very tempting to believe that
4351 I am fully male
4352 that I am testosterone
4353 that I am muscle mass
4354 that I am stubble
4355 because this <touches head> has always told me that I am
4356 but you know what
4357 I am inside of a female vessel
4358 and no matter how I shape it
4359 no matter how I inject it
4360 no matter how I cut it
4361 that's not going to change
4362 I cannot undue birth

4363 I cannot undue socialization
4364 I cannot shave off a large part of myself
4365 and throw it away and pretend that it never existed
4366 the hard truth for me
4367 the very very hard truth that I had to realize
4368 is that I will never be cisgender
4369 I will never have a cisgender experience
4370 I will never have complete alignment between my body
4371 and my brain
4372 and you know what
4373 that doesn't make me a half functioning individual
4374 that just makes me different
4375 and different is ok
4376 because there is a reason for it
4377 so why
4378 why was I striving so hard to gain something that was impossible
4379 and what should I be striving for instead
4380 to fulfill my purpose as an individual with a transgender experience
4381 rather than to be blending in as another cisgender guy
4382 to be the hybrid that I was born to be
4383 you know I am a hybrid
4384 with a story of bothness
4385 and in a world of black and white
4386 grey has unlimited potential to change things
4387 you know I have been given something very special
4388 and while I do believe that I'm trans
4389 and I absolutely believe that something happened in the womb
4390 something different happened and this <points to head> developed one way
4391 and this <touches chest> developed another way
4392 and out came me
4393 what I don't believe is that it was an accident
4394 I believe that it happened for a very specific reason
4395 and I am not going to learn that reason
4396 on testosterone
4397 injecting myself in the thigh every week
4398 did not bring me closer to the truth
4399 it just helped to mask the pain
4400 for one more week
4401 it just helped to mask the pain
4402 as a trans person
4403 as a hybrid
4404 my very existence defies the concept of a binary
4405 but the irony of this <holds up testosterone injection>

4406 the irony of this
4407 is inescapable
4408 because for the world to recognize me in my natural position
4409 and not as one side of the binary that it ascribes to me based on my genitals
4410 I must do the very thing that I loathe
4411 as ascribe to myself
4412 the opposite binary position
4413 I must be fully male for the world to see the maleness in me
4414 I must ??? all traces of female for the world to believe that I am not fully female
4415 and that is not the truth
4416 that is the sacrifice that I am not willing to make
4417 my plight
4418 if I have a plight
4419 is to plead with younger FTMs
4420 especially
4421 to learn and to love themselves fully
4422 without feeling that they have to bury their past beneath injections
4423 this process of transition is not a process of becoming
4424 it's just a process of learning who you already are
4425 I'm not arguing against transition
4426 I'm simply arguing against what we think that transition means
4427 and I'm not arguing against testosterone
4428 I'm simply advocating for a larger disclaimer on the bottle
4429 This will not make you who you are
4430 you already are
4431 who you are
4432 I don't believe
4433 that gender identity can ever be a solidified thing
4434 it's like we keep trying to place a period at the end of a sentence
4435 and then when the sentence tries to expand beyond the period
4436 we think that we're losing our minds
4437 and something is wrong
4438 the same way we thought something was wrong when we first realized we were living as
4439 the wrong gender
4440 when we come to realize that even our preferred gender is not so black and white
4441 we are stigmatized all over again
4442 people say that we're gender confused
4443 and they say that we're de-transitioning
4444 and they say that we're a disgrace to all of the real transgender people out there
4445 exploring who you are and what you think
4446 should never be referred to as confusion
4447 the unexamined life is not worth living
4448 Socrates said that

4449 don't stagnate
4450 don't shut yourself off from learning
4451 exploring
4452 examining more
4453 what you think you know
4454 it should shift minute to minute
4455 experience it fully
4456 and honestly
4457 and shamelessly
4458 In conclusion I
4459 I realized that not everybody wants
4460 what I want
4461 my young trans female friend
4462 asked me recently
4463 what it was like on testosterone
4464 to have everybody see me for who I was
4465 and I replied
4466 sort of sadly
4467 that it was like
4468 being invisible
4469 and she said
4470 isn't that the point
4471 and she's right because for us
4472 the alternative to being invisible
4473 is constant staring
4474 and invasive questions
4475 and insults
4476 and its exhausting
4477 I know it's exhausting
4478 but I am coming to realize
4479 that being exhausted is a price that I am willing to pay
4480 and being stealth is not
4481 because my purpose is to speak
4482 if your purpose is not to speak
4483 and you want to be stealth
4484 and you just want to pass
4485 then I applaud you
4486 I love you
4487 and I will help you through it
4488 I'm just saying that I can't do it
4489 that doesn't make me a disgrace to the transgender race
4490 it doesn't mean I'm de-transitioning
4491 it simply makes me a spokesperson for equality

4492 yours
 4493 and mine
 4494 and everyone else who believes that you have to be black
 4495 or white
 4496 to be human
 4497 your humanity is not contained in your vessel
 4498 that's all I really have to say on that specific subject

NARRATIVE 11

sillyyetsucciinct. (2009, Sept. 3). Transsexual Regret. [video file]. Retrieved from:
<http://youtu.be/0iOLFrSeTes>

4499 but I wanted to make a video
 4500 saying how
 4501 despite everything that I'm going through
 4502 uh
 4503 despite the shit from family members
 4504 and
 4505 the issues with
 4506 you know
 4507 coming out
 4508 or not coming out
 4509 to people here
 4510 you know
 4511 the stealth or non-stealth issue
 4512 um
 4513 the identification card hassle
 4514 the huge financial burden
 4515 um
 4516 of changing all my id cards
 4517 several times
 4518 and surgery
 4519 and paying for private physicians
 4520 and um
 4521 paying for my T
 4522 everything is out of pocket
 4523 uh so despite all of that
 4524 I wanted to say
 4525 that transitioning has been worth it
 4526 it's worth it
 4527 it's worth all of that
 4528 it's worth every single in appropriate question from strangers

4529 it's worth humiliation from bouncers at a club
4530 it's worth the money
4531 it's worth the hassle
4532 for me
4533 transitioning has absolutely been worth it
4534 every step of the way
4535 knowing now
4536 how much
4537 uh
4538 hassles and finances are involved in transitioning
4539 which to be honest
4540 I wasn't fully aware of
4541 when I started this process
4542 still
4543 even now
4544 knowing how much trouble it is
4545 I would still do it
4546 and I would probably still do it
4547 the same way
4548 that I did it before
4549 so it's absolutely worth it
4550 cuz
4551 every day when I get up in the morning
4552 and I look in the mirror
4553 I look a little bit more like myself
4554 and every day when I put on my clothes
4555 I no longer
4556 feel sick to my stomach
4557 I can put on clothes that I like
4558 and when I go to class
4559 I'm treated the way
4560 that I want to be treated
4561 I interact with my classmates
4562 in a way that feels comfortable
4563 and natural to me
4564 I no longer feel like
4565 I'm putting something on
4566 or being fake
4567 or it it
4568 I didn't even realize the extent
4569 of the discomfort
4570 that I was dealing with as a girl
4571 until now that it

4572 now that it's gone
4573 I realize how bad it was
4574 I always thought that
4575 um you know
4576 life was just uncomfortable
4577 and that it had to do with my maturity
4578 or um
4579 just awkward
4580 general awkward growing up stuff
4581 or that it
4582 you know I tried to blame it on lots of other things
4583 I mean
4584 I knew that I had gender issues
4585 but I didn't realize
4586 that so much of the the discomfort I felt
4587 within life
4588 was related to that
4589 I
4590 I thought that
4591 you know when I transitioned
4592 I transitioned because of my physical dysphoria
4593 not because of my social dysphoria
4594 I mean
4595 the social aspects contributed to it
4596 but the reason I transitioned was
4597 because I needed to change my body
4598 but now that I've done it
4599 now I realize
4600 how good it feels
4601 to live as male
4602 and
4603 how comfortable I feel
4604 in public
4605 or just in my class
4606 during the breaks
4607 during coffee break
4608 during lunch
4609 during any and all social interactions
4610 how much more comfortable I am
4611 man I feel like
4612 I really own the meaning of
4613 be yourself
4614 um I mean

4615 I know that I still have lots of
4616 really femme-y mannerisms
4617 and way of speaking
4618 but I don't care ###
4619 you know
4620 it doesn't
4621 those things don't bother me
4622 so it's not like I'm trying to be "more male"
4623 than I am
4624 I'm just being myself completely
4625 and not thinking about
4626 how I'm coming across
4627 that's how
4628 how it's been for me
4629 now that I ???
4630 and I just am myself
4631 and I don't worry
4632 about how I'm being seen
4633 how I'm sitting
4634 what's what
4635 is this this
4636 you know
4637 like how people are interpreting
4638 the things that I say
4639 you know
4640 I just
4641 I'm babbling
4642 I just want to say
4643 that life is so much
4644 less complicated
4645 it's so less complicated
4646 then it was when I was living as a girl
4647 even with all the additional complications of being "trans"
4648 and like
4649 all this transitions related complications
4650 complicated as all of that is
4651 my life is less complicated today
4652 than it was when I was living as a girl
4653 and that's how I know that I'm trans
4654 and that I'm doing the right thing
4655 nothing to do with how masculine
4656 that I feel that I am
4657 or how butch I am

4658 or you know
 4659 that has nothing to do with like
 4660 societal constructs
 4661 of masculine
 4662 I don't even know
 4663 where I'm going with this

NARRATIVE 12

KeepingitQueer (2012, Feb. 20). How I knew I was Trans. [video file]. Retrieved from:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rszAog7VxSY&feature=youtu.be>

4664 this week's topic
 4665 is how you knew
 4666 you were LGBT
 4667 taking a quote from Lady Gaga here
 4668 we were born this way
 4669 so basically that means
 4670 we always knew
 4671 what we were
 4672 whether it's lesbian
 4673 gay
 4674 bi
 4675 or trans
 4676 we just didn't know there was a name for it
 4677 we didn't know how to explain it
 4678 we didn't know there was a label
 4679 being trans its like
 4680 well you
 4681 you're in the wrong body
 4682 you're gonna know that from a young age
 4683 and I guess
 4684 I like
 4685 I didn't really realize that
 4686 I was so different
 4687 I just thought
 4688 I was one of the lads
 4689 I'd just run around
 4690 you know
 4691 there wasn't that gender difference
 4692 until

NARRATIVE 13

ClosetTransgender. (July 12, 2011). Fake Transgender. [video file]. Retrieved from:
http://youtu.be/w0H_Pzfp-tg

4693 hello
4694 is there such thing as
4695 fake trans people
4696 are there people who go around
4697 saying they're transgender
4698 but really they're not
4699 are there people who start transitioning
4700 and then realize
4701 that they were wrong
4702 and go back
4703 but can't
4704 or anything like that
4705 because
4706 I think those things are rare
4707 I think they're really unusual
4708 and I think
4709 um
4710 you know some people use
4711 some people who aren't trans use that argument
4712 oh
4713 you know but
4714 you might try and start to transition
4715 but really
4716 then you'll figure out that you're wrong
4717 and you won't be able to
4718 you know
4719 you'll be trapped in the middle
4720 blah
4721 but I don't think that really exists very much
4722 I think it's like
4723 way too much energy and effort
4724 to try, to claim the trans label
4725 it takes uh
4726 a lot of
4727 time
4728 and understanding
4729 and it's not something
4730 that you can
4731 use for

4732 beca---
4733 like
4734 it's not something
4735 to---
4736 to---
4737 necessarily
4738 I mean you have to be proud of it
4739 you
4740 when
4741 when that's who you are
4742 but it's not something like
4743 really cool
4744 like a label you can wear
4745 and become cooler
4746 you know
4747 being trans is kind of uncomfortable
4748 and um
4749 and kinda like a
4750 sometimes it's kinda like a disease
4751 honestly
4752 for me
4753 I mean
4754 something that's not normal
4755 that you have to like
4756 figure out
4757 how to
4758 how to
4759 live with
4760 you know
4761 so
4762 so it's not something
4763 you'd want to like
4764 take on
4765 to feel
4766 cooler
4767 anyway
4768 so that's interesting
4769 now another thing I was kinda wondering about
4770 was
4771 um
4772 when I think of my experience
4773 as a transgendered
4774 female to male

4775 it was something
4776 that was very weird to know
4777 that I had
4778 inside of me
4779 when I was little
4780 you know
4781 I knew I was a boy
4782 and then
4783 puberty was hard
4784 and then
4785 blah blah blah
4786 you know
4787 it's a really
4788 typical story of
4789 um
4790 someone who's transgendered
4791 it seems like
4792 based on other videos I've watched
4793 and research I've done
4794 it's like
4795 when you are
4796 a transgendered F to M
4797 it's just something that's with you your entire life
4798 you're born that way
4799 you know every step along the way that you're different
4800 something's weird
4801 and then
4802 anyway
4803 then you find out
4804 then you get the word for it (container?? gesture2:13)
4805 and you're like
4806 oh ok
4807 and it was nice
4808 you know
4809 that experience of
4810 finding a name for what I am
4811 and knowing that I wasn't alone
4812 and all this stuff
4813 and that was great
4814 and sometimes I hear stories
4815 from other trans guys
4816 that's like
4817 or just from people who watch my videos

4818 that are like
4819 I'm exploring the possibility that I might be trans
4820 or
4821 I'm trans
4822 but I didn't know like all my life
4823 as you did
4824 like
4825 I was kind of a normal
4826 more like normal little girl
4827 and then I just think
4828 um
4829 you know
4830 how much variability is there
4831 like what is
4832 what do you think is
4833 more common
4834 and why do you think
4835 there's such
4836 a diversity of different experiences within the trans thing
4837 because
4838 to me it seems like
4839 I don't know
4840 it seems like
4841 there's just this typical way
4842 and then there's these non-typical ways
4843 the trans queer thing
4844 where
4845 you know
4846 you don't necessarily fit into any box
4847 does that
4848 is that different than being
4849 sexually
4850 or like
4851 gender-confused
4852 like
4853 is being
4854 being gender-queer
4855 being
4856 gender-unclear
4857 or like
4858 a state of confusion
4859 or is it like
4860 a very strong state of knowing

4861 but not fitting into the normal
4862 um you know
4863 boxes
4864 or whatever
4865 so I was just kind of curious
4866 if you can answer that question
4867 down below
4868 about
4869 like uh
4870 if you had a typical-experience
4871 a non-typical experience
4872 um
4873 and you know
4874 when you figured out that you were trans
4875 because
4876 it's not
4877 it's like
4878 there's a question in the human life
4879 which is
4880 who am I
4881 but everybody knows
4882 what they are
4883 it's like you're discovering who you are
4884 but what you are
4885 you kinda of know
4886 you know you're trans
4887 not like
4888 I think I'm trans
4889 how does that work
4890 how does that happen
4891 please help me understand

NARRATIVE 14

Wes (August 27,2011) Traditional v. Non-traditional Trans Narrative (video response to Forest)
[video file]. Retrieved from:
http://youtu.be/T_c1pXjSaoE

4892 you brought up the point that
4893 there seems to be so much variance between
4894 trans guys and when they start identifying as trans
4895 and why there are some trans men like yourself
4896 who know from

4897 the time they're a little kid that
4898 they're trans
4899 and then they're
4900 that they are trans
4901 and then there's
4902 other trans guys who
4903 go through a period
4904 much later in life
4905 in their early twenties
4906 thirties
4907 fifties
4908 what have you
4909 and are questioning it and saying
4910 I think I might be trans
4911 or
4912 they come to terms with
4913 their trans identity
4914 and are confident that they're trans
4915 but
4916 acknowledge that
4917 they did not know that
4918 from the time they were a little kid
4919 which is where I fall
4920 on the spectrum
4921 um
4922 and
4923 it's something that
4924 I really struggled with
4925 when I first realized that
4926 I was struggling with my gender identity
4927 I
4928 I think I was under the impression
4929 that the traditional trans story
4930 was the only trans story
4931 and so
4932 because that did
4933 immediately resonate with me
4934 um
4935 it made it really hard for me to
4936 make sense of
4937 who I really am
4938 and to
4939 um

4940 feel sure and confident
4941 um, I was terrified that
4942 I would be viewed as
4943 fake
4944 or
4945 um
4946 not the real deal
4947 even though
4948 I mean
4949 I don't understand why anybody would
4950 choose to identify as trans
4951 if they
4952 weren't
4953 but um
4954 nonetheless
4955 it was
4956 a huge struggle I faced
4957 and that's partly why I
4958 started making YouTube videos
4959 um
4960 to the public
4961 and
4962 for the community
4963 because
4964 I think that the traditional story
4965 is far more heard
4966 and
4967 is what
4968 is maybe seen in the media most often
4969 and
4970 as I
4971 realized
4972 that I am trans
4973 and that I
4974 have a non-traditional trans story
4975 it just became so important to me
4976 to get that voice out there
4977 because I realize
4978 that there are plenty of people
4979 like me
4980 who do not have the
4981 traditional story
4982 there are so many

4983 and
 4984 I would like to inform
 4985 to only
 4986 other people out there who are struggling with it
 4987 but
 4988 society in general
 4989 so that
 4990 we can break away from these stereotypes
 4991 I mean
 4992 what it comes down to
 4993 is that gender is a spectrum
 4994 so
 4995 it makes sense
 4996 that it's not do binary
 4997 and that it's not one way or the other
 4998 not everybody's gonna know
 4999 from the time their three years old
 5000 because maybe
 5001 they aren't
 5002 maybe they don't
 5003 feel one hundred percent male
 5004 but still
 5005 consistently fall on the masculine
 5006 end of the spectrum
 5007 um

NARRATIVE 15

TheSLOfox (May 29, 2014) How I did NOT know I was trans:) [video file]. Retrieved from: <https://youtu.be/LPgM3UCP0dQ>

5008 Hey there
 5009 it's Austin
 5010 Now
 5011 I've seen many
 5012 trans people on YouTube
 5013 make videos
 5014 along the lines of
 5015 "how I knew I was trans"

5016 and I like those
5017 I love watching those
5018 and I found them
5019 really helpful
5020 and also just fascinating
5021 so
5022 I do approve
5023 of the
5024 “how I knew I was trans” videos
5025 but
5026 I
5027 have been thinking so much
5028 about um
5029 not only how I know I’m trans
5030 but
5031 why I did not know before
5032 so for that reason
5033 I’m making this video
5034 how I
5035 did not know
5036 that I was trans
5037 before
5038 in case that’s interesting for you
5039 and because
5040 I find it helpful
5041 to express these things
5042 myself
5043 um anyways
5044 so
5045 why did I not
5046 realize I was trans earlier ?
5047 um
5048 I feel like
5049 a lot of what’s gotten me
5050 to realize that I’m trans
5051 is sort of
5052 accessing my intuition
5053 or accessing
5054 like a deep true aspect of myself
5055 and
5056 I just didn’t quite do that much
5057 before in my life
5058 um

5059 by the way
5060 I'm thirty-one
5061 um
5062 like
5063 when I was younger
5064 like a kid
5065 or
5066 a teenager
5067 I didn't think about
5068 being a boy
5069 I'm not one of those people
5070 who from a young age
5071 was like
5072 oh
5073 I'm actually a boy
5074 that didn't happen for me
5075 and I think
5076 my deal was
5077 partly that
5078 like
5079 I thought of myself
5080 and thought about my life
5081 according to
5082 basically
5083 the labels that were assigned to me
5084 and what other people called me
5085 which
5086 so
5087 here's one way of putting it
5088 that
5089 um
5090 the
5091 "dictionary definition" of myself
5092 like my body
5093 is female
5094 which of course
5095 I knew
5096 all children know that
5097 from a super young age
5098 they know their assigned sex
5099 so I
5100 from the beginning I was like
5101 ok so

5102 I'm female
5103 um
5104 well then ok
5105 I guess that means
5106 I wear girls clothes
5107 although you know
5108 I'll try to find me masculine girls clothes
5109 um
5110 and
5111 I'm talking from the perspective of my younger self
5112 um
5113 and well
5114 yeah
5115 I'll just
5116 do my best to
5117 be an effective girl
5118 and I did
5119 I just
5120 I just
5121 did not think about
5122 being a boy
5123 like it didn't occur to me
5124 until
5125 towards the end of college
5126 to wear men's clothes
5127 it just didn't
5128 occur to me
5129 I don't know why
5130 um
5131 I think
5132 but my point here
5133 it's complex to explain
5134 it's like
5135 from the beginning
5136 when I was little
5137 I was just sort of
5138 living according to
5139 these "dictionary definitions"
5140 like
5141 oh ok
5142 people say I'm a girl
5143 I'm a girl
5144 ok

5145 well
5146 I'll do my best
5147 so
5148 uh
5149 yeah
5150 because of that
5151 I just did
5152 I just wasn't in touch
5153 at all with
5154 like my intuition
5155 or the deeper part of me
5156 that's just how it was
5157 so now
5158 in recent times
5159 when I feel like
5160 I've really gotten a lot more in touch
5161 with that deeper
5162 really true part of myself
5163 and my intuition
5164 now I have something to compare it to
5165 and I'm like
5166 oh
5167 well
5168 when people say stuff like
5169 follow your heart
5170 or listen to your intuition
5171 now I know what that means
5172 I guess I didn't before
5173 I didn't really have
5174 much intuition about
5175 some stuff
5176 at least not about gender
5177 or
5178 identity
5179 um
5180 but now I do
5181 so now I can tell
5182 that I did not have that intuition before
5183 I was just sort of like
5184 I dunno
5185 almost like a shell in some ways
5186 that sounds really depressing
5187 but

5188 that's kinda how it was
5189 at least in terms of gender
5190 and in terms of core parts of my identity
5191 it's not like I was just "a shell"
5192 in all aspects
5193 you know
5194 I wrote poetry
5195 I've always loved nature
5196 and I felt very strongly
5197 and keenly
5198 about nature
5199 you know
5200 I felt very alive at times
5201 but just in terms of gender
5202 and other core parts of my identity
5203 I guess I just felt kinda like a shell
5204 I didn't
5205 I was just
5206 I dunno
5207 not really
5208 doing my real self
5209 um
5210 so anyway
5211 that's
5212 a super cool feeling now
5213 to feel like
5214 I do
5215 I suddenly have more access
5216 to my intuition
5217 and to
5218 a part of me
5219 that feels much more real
5220 than what I had access to previously
5221 it's really amazing
5222 and energizing
5223 and uh validating
5224 super exciting
5225 yeah
5226 um
5227 but
5228 other reasons
5229 why I didn't know
5230 that I was trans

5231 before
5232 um
5233 maybe related to what I was just saying
5234 I didn't rebel
5235 I didn't have a rebellious phase
5236 when I was younger
5237 like a teenager
5238 um
5239 I don't know why
5240 maybe it's because I had not yet gotten in touch
5241 with the more
5242 like true
5243 raw
5244 part of myself
5245 so like
5246 why would you want to rebel
5247 if you're not even in touch with the deep
5248 part of yourself
5249 you're just like
5250 well
5251 yeah
5252 I'm a girl
5253 I'm just trying to be a girl
5254 and chilling on the couch in the evening with my mom
5255 and doing my homework
5256 whatever
5257 that's kinda how I was
5258 and another
5259 another thing
5260 that I find kind of
5261 pretty fascinating myself
5262 to think about
5263 and reflect on
5264 is that when I was in high school
5265 I wondered if
5266 I was a lesbian
5267 because
5268 I had never gone out on any dates
5269 I didn't go out on any dates
5270 or like
5271 do anything romantic
5272 or kiss anybody
5273 'til I was

5274 like
5275 <laugh>
5276 in college
5277 which is sad
5278 but
5279 it's because I wasn't in touch with myself
5280 and in high school
5281 I hadn't realized
5282 that I like girls
5283 so in high school I was like
5284 am I a lesbian
5285 is that why I haven't gone on dates with guys
5286 is that why guys
5287 don't ask me out
5288 um
5289 is that why I don't really
5290 like
5291 there's not any specific guys
5292 that I want to go out with
5293 so I would think about that
5294 I was like
5295 am I gay
5296 and
5297 I would picture
5298 or try to feel what it would be like
5299 to be with a girl
5300 and
5301 thinking of myself as a girl
5302 with a girl
5303 didn't
5304 it didn't do anything for me at that time
5305 it didn't
5306 feel like much of anything
5307 like when I would envision that
5308 I was like
5309 meh
5310 that doesn't feel satisfying
5311 what sounds satisfying to me
5312 is
5313 you know
5314 a guy
5315 a strong guy
5316 like with

5317 strong shoulders
5318 a tall guy
5319 with big shoulders
5320 like
5321 I feel like
5322 that's fitting
5323 that's got to be in there somewhere
5324 so I was like
5325 well
5326 I guess I'm not a lesbian
5327 um
5328 although of course
5329 later I realized that
5330 the reason why I hadn't been on dates with guys
5331 is that
5332 I was just not
5333 attracted to guys
5334 really
5335 and
5336 that I was
5337 really attracted to
5338 women
5339 so looking back
5340 on that
5341 from my current perspective
5342 I'm like
5343 well
5344 I feel like
5345 maybe the reason why
5346 it took me a long time
5347 to realize that I liked girls
5348 and the reason why
5349 I had that thought
5350 like
5351 oh it seems right
5352 to have a guy
5353 you know
5354 strong guy
5355 big shoulders
5356 et cetera
5357 is that
5358 maybe it's like
5359 I

5360 um
5361 it's like I am
5362 actually
5363 largely straight
5364 but a straight guy
5365 like
5366 mostly straight guy
5367 um
5368 and that
5369 the guy
5370 that I was envisioning
5371 like
5372 that I described
5373 a second ago
5374 maybe
5375 that is me
5376 you know
5377 like the reason why
5378 I felt like
5379 it seemed
5380 right
5381 and good
5382 and really satisfying
5383 for me to think of
5384 a guy with
5385 big shoulders
5386 in a relationship
5387 is because
5388 that's true
5389 for me
5390 it's just
5391 that I want to be that
5392 that's
5393 that's who I am
5394 that's what I am
5395 that's what I want to be in a relationship
5396 so
5397 that's so weird
5398 so I'm wondering like
5399 what if my psychological discoveries
5400 or psychological development as
5401 um
5402 somebody who

5403 likes women
5404 and who's trans
5405 was sort of delayed
5406 by this sort of
5407 flip-flopping
5408 of what I want
5409 versus
5410 what I want to be
5411 so
5412 I find that interesting
5413 um
5414 so that could be part of it
5415 although
5416 then you could ask
5417 well
5418 ok
5419 if you figured out
5420 that you liked girls
5421 when you were nineteen
5422 why didn't you realize you were trans
5423 when you were nineteen
5424 I dunno
5425 my answer to that
5426 is that
5427 realizing that I'm trans
5428 has required sort of
5429 peeling back
5430 of many layers
5431 many layers
5432 that's how I would put it
5433 I forget if I've mentioned that
5434 in a previous video
5435 it's like
5436 um
5437 let me give some examples
5438 when I was in high school
5439 I had to peel back the layer of fear about
5440 "being mistaken for a boy"
5441 and
5442 the fear of wearing for example
5443 like
5444 plaid flannel shirts
5445 this was in the nineties

5446 and I
5447 well I still love
5448 plaid flannel shirts
5449 so I guess the time period
5450 is irrelevant
5451 um
5452 so then
5453 in high school
5454 I was like
5455 you know
5456 I want to wear my plaid shirt today
5457 over my t-shirt
5458 and I'm gonna do it
5459 so that was one layer
5460 then another layer
5461 was like
5462 later on
5463 when I was like
5464 hm
5465 I think I could
5466 I could wear men's jeans
5467 if I want
5468 yeah
5469 I'll do that
5470 there's another layer coming off
5471 another layer was
5472 that I guess is somewhat related in my mind
5473 is like
5474 oh
5475 it's ok
5476 to think that girls are pretty
5477 and that doesn't mean
5478 that
5479 I'm
5480 a lesbian
5481 uh
5482 or attracted to girls
5483 well it kinda did
5484 but anyway
5485 that was one layer
5486 then another layer was like
5487 oh
5488 I'm attracted to girls

5489 and
5490 that's ok
5491 I can deal with that
5492 there's another layer
5493 um
5494 and then
5495 oh
5496 I can have really short hair
5497 that looks like a man's haircut
5498 and that's ok I can deal with that
5499 there's another layer
5500 um
5501 and so forth
5502 there's a whole bunch more
5503 that went over a span of many years
5504 just how I did it
5505 and
5506 sort of the last thing
5507 that I
5508 well
5509 second to last thing
5510 that I wanted to mention
5511 is that
5512 um
5513 over the years
5514 I've spent a lot of mental energy
5515 dealing with other things
5516 aside from gender
5517 and sexuality
5518 um
5519 the biggest thing
5520 is that
5521 my dad died
5522 when I was eight
5523 in an accident
5524 he was killed by a drunk driver
5525 so
5526 I spent so much mental energy
5527 like processing that
5528 and dealing with that
5529 over the years
5530 and I've seen
5531 at least a couple of therapists

5532 and we've talked
5533 a lot
5534 about my dad
5535 and
5536 you know
5537 I've written about it
5538 journaled about it
5539 written poems about it
5540 um
5541 spent so much time thinking about it
5542 about my dad
5543 so
5544 I wonder
5545 if I wasn't
5546 if that wasn't
5547 the main thing
5548 that I needed to deal with
5549 for all of those years
5550 could I have
5551 realized I was trans sooner
5552 maybe
5553 that would make sense
5554 yeah
5555 but
5556 you know
5557 that's just how it is
5558 that's
5559 how my life was
5560 and that's ok
5561 um
5562 and I think that's also
5563 part of why I didn't rebel
5564 when I was a teenager
5565 because from losing a family member
5566 I knew how
5567 valuable family was
5568 so I wanted to spend time with family
5569 and not
5570 alienate myself from my family
5571 so I was really focused on that
5572 as opposed to like
5573 partying
5574 or something

5575 um
5576 well
5577 also since my dad was killed
5578 by a drunk driver
5579 up
5580 until like after college
5581 well
5582 well no
5583 that's not true
5584 up until part way through college
5585 I was uh
5586 completely
5587 against drinking
5588 completely
5589 I felt very angry about it
5590 which totally makes sense to me
5591 yeah
5592 um
5593 so that's another reason
5594 why I didn't rebel
5595 cuz
5596 I had been very hurt
5597 my family had been very hurt
5598 by an irresponsible person
5599 and I did not want to be
5600 an irresponsible person
5601 so
5602 it took me many years
5603 to
5604 sort of loosen up
5605 and realize that I could enjoy
5606 life
5607 and be kind of irresponsible
5608 without actually risking
5609 hurting somebody
5610 so that's another reason
5611 why I didn't rebel
5612 and why I
5613 well
5614 yeah
5615 anyway
5616 the last thing that I wanted to mention
5617 in this long video

5618 is
5619 what I mentioned in a previous video
5620 is that a huge thing
5621 that prevented me from realizing I was trans
5622 sooner
5623 or accepting it sooner
5624 is feelings of guilt
5625 mm
5626 and also maybe shame
5627 about
5628 maleness
5629 and if you want to hear more about that
5630 you can also look at my other video
5631 it's called like
5632 dealing with guilt about maleness
5633 um
5634 I was like
5635 I don't feel comfortable
5636 identifying as a guy
5637 because
5638 guys are violent
5639 and like
5640 I don't want to be viewed
5641 as like
5642 a rapist
5643 or I feel bad
5644 just being in the same gender box
5645 as rapists
5646 which I know sounds extreme
5647 but the thing is
5648 this was not an intellectual
5649 issue for me
5650 so much as just a
5651 psychological
5652 issue
5653 that involved emotions
5654 guilt
5655 so
5656 emotions are harder to deal with
5657 than intellectual concepts
5658 I think
5659 so
5660 it took me a long time

5661 to get passed that
5662 and what helped
5663 is just having other people
5664 who would
5665 accept me
5666 as a guy
5667 and who appreciated me
5668 appreciated me as a guy
5669 that's a big thing
5670 so then I could
5671 feel
5672 this acceptance
5673 and appreciation as guy
5674 um
5675 which made me feel like
5676 oh yeah
5677 I could be a good guy
5678 and a peaceful guy
5679 and I can be appreciated for that
5680 so I don't need to feel guilty about it
5681 so that was
5682 gigantic
5683 um
5684 anyway
5685 I think that
5686 that's all that I wanted to say
5687 I'll make another video about
5688 sort of
5689 the more positive aspect of it
5690 like
5691 not why I didn't realize I was trans
5692 but how I do
5693 know I'm trans
5694 so stay tuned
5695 thanks for watching
5696 bye
<end>

NARRATIVE 16

TRANScend (August 14, 2015) How I Knew I was Transgender. [video file]. Retrieved from: https://youtu.be/RC9_vw9LuHY

5697 alright
5698 so I only
5699 really
5700 discovered what
5701 transgender was
5702 back in like
5703 2011 or 12 when
5704 I met someone
5705 that was trans
5706 as far back as I can honestly remember
5707 maybe I was like two or three
5708 when I started developing like
5709 my own
5710 wants and likes
5711 for clothes and toys
5712 I always obviously wanted
5713 boy toys
5714 and I wanted to wear
5715 boy clothes
5716 you know I was never allowed to do that
5717 um
5718 I always picked out boys clothes
5719 I always wanted to wear a hat
5720 I wanted my hair cut short
5721 my parents wouldn't let me do that
5722 they would let me wear boy clothes
5723 but when I went to school
5724 I had to put on girl clothes
5725 that happened when I was a kid
5726 and I didn't fully understand that
5727 I thought I was a boy
5728 I didn't understand that I
5729 was a girl
5730 and I didn't know the difference
5731 because at the time
5732 I didn't know that
5733 boys and girls had different genitalia
5734 so I just thought that
5735 boys had short hair
5736 and girls had long hair
5737 and I was having long hair
5738 so I thought I had to be a girl
5739 and then

NARRATIVE 17

Flores, R. J. (July 31, 2015). _FTM Edition: How I "Knew" I Was Trans. [video file].

Retrieved from: <https://youtu.be/DoTp0m7ZKLU>

5740 how did I know
 5741 I was trans
 5742 on tumblr
 5743 I've gotten some private asks
 5744 from quite a few people about this
 5745 some are not sure
 5746 about their gender identity
 5747 or are questioning
 5748 and that's ok
 5749 so
 5750 this is my experience
 5751 you wanna know how I knew
 5752 I'll tell you
 5753 I didn't
 5754 I didn't know
 5755 I was trans
 5756 I am not one of those
 5757 lucky people
 5758 who knew since they were
 5759 very young
 5760 that something was different
 5761 that they were special
 5762 that something was wrong
 5763 no
 5764 so I didn't know

NARRATIVE 18

illrollwithit (May 8, 2015). Transgender Today: I Didn't Always Know. [video file].

Retrieved from: <https://youtu.be/oZphpHwdJ1E>

5765 not all trans people are the same
 5766 and not all trans narratives are the same
 5767 the media today
 5768 tends to paint this
 5769 portrait of trans people
 5770 and it tends to paint
 5771 every trans person as being the same

5772 and having the same story
5773 and thinking the same thoughts
5774 and wanting the same things for their bodies
5775 but I think it's really
5776 really important
5777 to know that
5778 that is not the case
5779 whatsoever
5780 there's not just one way to be trans
5781 there's not just two ways to be trans
5782 you can be trans
5783 and be totally
5784 totally different
5785 from
5786 any other trans person out there
5787 there's no right or wrong way to do it
5788 and I think that's
5789 so important to learn
5790 because
5791 once people find out that I'm trans
5792 I
5793 I
5794 I
5795 I get the question all the time
5796 did you always know
5797 and when I answer that question with no
5798 people are floored
5799 because the narrative that they have in their heads is that
5800 I always knew I was in the "wrong body"
5801 and I always had a feeling that I was "different"
5802 but really that's not true
5803 and um
5804 as I five year old
5805 I didn't look inside myself and think
5806 I am in the wrong body
5807 because
5808 I was five
5809 I just didn't have
5810 that self-awareness
5811 and I wasn't growing up in a place that
5812 I was able to have that self-awareness
5813 and it's great when people do have that
5814 but it's also important to know

5815 that not all trans people have that
 5816 and not every trans person
 5817 has to be this way
 5818 in order to be trans

NARRATIVE 19

O'Keefe, T. (May 20, 2015) I didn't know I was transgender. [video file]. Retrieved from:
<https://youtu.be/tqw54-cXVAA>

5819 The whole transgender thing
 5820 there's so many trans men out there
 5821 that talk about their journey
 5822 to discovering who they were
 5823 well
 5824 a lot of them say like
 5825 they knew
 5826 from a very young age
 5827 like even before they knew what transgender was
 5828 and for the longest time
 5829 whenever I watched those videos
 5830 for the longest time
 5831 I thought I didn't
 5832 because I didn't relate to that
 5833 that it was invalid
 5834 I was invalid
 5835 and that
 5836 I couldn't be transgender because
 5837 I didn't feel how they felt
 5838 even though every person's different
 5839 it's just so many trans men said
 5840 I knew since I was from a young age
 5841 that I was different
 5842 that I couldn't live as a girl
 5843 blah blah
 5844 but that was not the case for me
 5845 I
 5846 I went back and forth
 5847 from being a tomboy
 5848 to dressing feminine
 5849 when I was about five or six years old
 5850 I met my friend
 5851 who is now gender non-conforming

5852 but when I met him
5853 he had long hair
5854 he wore feminine clothes
5855 kinda
5856 but about a year later
5857 he cut his hair off
5858 he started wearing guys clothes
5859 and started trying to present himself
5860 as a guy
5861 and I remember I thought
5862 girls can do that
5863 what
5864 I didn't know girls could do that
5865 I ran to my mom
5866 and I was like
5867 mom
5868 I need to get my hair cut
5869 I need
5870 all of these different clothes
5871 like right now
5872 and my mom cried
5873 when I got all my hair cut off
5874 she let me
5875 which
5876 I'm really happy she did
5877 she wasn't one of those parents who said
5878 I'm not going to let my little girl
5879 cut all her hair off
5880 she'll regret it
5881 so I'm glad that she kind of
5882 played into it
5883 but yeah
5884 I did
5885 I cut all my hair off
5886 I dressed as a guy
5887 I was really happy about it
5888 and
5889 for the longest time
5890 I loved when people were like
5891 oh your such a gentlemen
5892 you're gonna grow up
5893 to be
5894 a very handsome boy

5895 etcetera
5896 but it wasn't always like that
5897 like
5898 when I got older
5899 and I saw the way girls normally were
5900 trying to show off their boobs
5901 trying to wear feminine clothes
5902 that showed off their body
5903 trying to grow out their hair
5904 wearing makeup
5905 I did all of that
5906 I was never comfortable
5907 but I thought that's what girls did
5908 so that's what I did
5909 and even from a young age
5910 I know
5911 I hated wearing dresses
5912 I did
5913 when my brother was graduating
5914 from grade eight
5915 I was like
5916 eight or nine years old
5917 my mom forced me to wear a dress
5918 like
5919 forced me to
5920 I cried
5921 screamed
5922 carried on
5923 I was like
5924 I'm not wearing a dress
5925 it's not happening
5926 it's not
5927 it wasn't even really a dress
5928 it had like shorts underneath
5929 it was like a skort
5930 you know
5931 it had flowers on it
5932 and I remember a wasp landed on me
5933 thinking I was
5934 a flower
5935 and I ran to mom
5936 and was like
5937 I got stung because of you

5938 I was not happy that day
5939 but even still
5940 growing up
5941 I grew my hair out
5942 I wore make-up
5943 I tried to wear
5944 feminine clothes
5945 that showed off
5946 my femininity
5947 I wore dresses
5948 I wore skirts
5949 thinking that that's
5950 that's what girls do
5951 and it never really
5952 played into my head
5953 that I was "different"
5954 like
5955 I uh
5956 I never once thought
5957 hey maybe
5958 maybe
5959 maybe I'm on to something here
5960 maybe this girl thing isn't working out
5961 cuz even when I got older
5962 into high school
5963 cuz I went back and forth
5964 um
5965 in grade school
5966 I started off wearing
5967 not exactly feminine clothes
5968 I wore overalls all the time
5969 I fucking loved overalls
5970 they were my shit
5971 but I would wear
5972 feminine clothes
5973 and then I'd cut all my hair off
5974 I'd dress like a guy
5975 and then I grew my hair back out
5976 and dressed like a girl
5977 and then I cut it all off
5978 dressed more masculine
5979 I was back and forth
5980 back and forth

5981 back and forth
5982 and uh
5983 grade seven
5984 eight
5985 I started to grow my hair out again
5986 grade at
5987 at grad
5988 I wore a dress
5989 I got my hair all done up pretty
5990 I did feel nice
5991 I did
5992 I felt beautiful
5993 and happy
5994 and uh
5995 natural
5996 yes
5997 but um
5998 high school was
5999 awkward
6000 as far as
6001 my appearance went
6002 I was very back and forth again
6003 like grade nine
6004 I had long hair down to here
6005 I would strengthen it
6006 I wore makeup
6007 I wore feminine clothes
6008 I tried the whole thing
6009 grade ten
6010 I had my scene phase
6011 I cut my hair off short
6012 it was the coolest haircut though
6013 let's be real
6014 and I wore kinda
6015 kind of like
6016 almost neutral clothes
6017 well scene clothes
6018 let's be
6019 like tight pants
6020 you know
6021 you
6022 everyone knows
6023 everyone knows a scene phase

6024 and um
6025 then I grew my hair out again
6026 and then
6027 by halfway through grade twelve
6028 I cut it all off again
6029 and I got
6030 positive feedback from that one
6031 but I tried
6032 I tried so much
6033 to fit in
6034 and I never felt comfortable
6035 but I thought that's what
6036 I had to do
6037 so if that's how you feel
6038 if you think
6039 you know
6040 back in the day
6041 I never thought that I was transgender
6042 I
6043 it never clued in to me
6044 even when I found out
6045 like
6046 even when I found out
6047 what transgender was
6048 I remember I talked to my doctor about this
6049 and he said
6050 well
6051 when you found out about the word
6052 did you
6053 think
6054 hey this might be
6055 a perfect fit for me
6056 this is who I am
6057 honestly no
6058 I just thought
6059 oh
6060 that's interesting
6061 never heard of that before
6062 cool
6063 all the power to you
6064 never once occurred to me
6065 that I would
6066 fall into

6067 that category

NARRATIVE 20

Jennings, J. (2013, Jul. 16). Jazz: A Transgender Child (Letter to the World). [video file].
Retrieved from: http://youtu.be/FiP5P_PNnO8

6068 I don't like it
6069 when people say
6070 I was born a boy
6071 but now I'm a girl
6072 yes
6073 I used to say it myself
6074 but as I've grown over the years
6075 I've understood something
6076 I always was a girl
6077 therefore
6078 I'd prefer it if people said
6079 I was born a girl
6080 trapped in a boy's body
6081 my name is Jazz
6082 and I am transgender
6083 I was born a girl
6084 trapped in a boy's body
6085 and although most people
6086 would run away from who they are
6087 I embraced my uniqueness
6088 I'm here today
6089 to spread my confidence and strength
6090 and make sure everyone understands
6091 that they are special
6092 and should be proud of who they are
6093 as soon as I was able to express my emotions
6094 I expressed myself as a girl
6095 my mom would say
6096 good boy
6097 and I would say
6098 no mommy
6099 good girl
6100 I knew that something was different with me
6101 and I just wanted to blossom
6102 into my true self
6103 although I was only two

6104 I remember being uncomfortable
6105 and upset
6106 with how people treated me
6107 it was a difficult time
6108 but I saw light at the end of the tunnel
6109 I knew that one day
6110 I would finally become that beautiful flower
6111 and I just had to keep moving forward
6112 until that day occurred
6113 as my parents learned more
6114 about being transgender
6115 and what it means
6116 things began to change
6117 I remember in preschool
6118 when I started to wear feminine clothes
6119 and finally in kindergarten
6120 when I fully transitioned
6121 I was so happy
6122 to finally be a girl
6123 to finally just be me

NARRATIVE 21

Ryder, B. (April 20 2014) FTM-How I knew I was trans. [video file]. Retrieved from:
<https://youtu.be/F6YeRCbhV2s>

6124 yeah
6125 how I knew I was trans
6126 I get asked this question
6127 a lot too
6128 a lot of trans guys do
6129 and
6130 um
6131 for me
6132 I like to say that I
6133 always knew
6134 when I was little
6135 like
6136 when I was a little boy
6137 I was a little boy
6138

NARRATIVE 22

TheRilenFiles (December 1, 2015). We Didn't All Know We Were Trans as Kids. [video file]. Retrieved from: https://youtu.be/WSry7falL_g

6139 this is just something
6140 that seems to be a misconception
6141 in the trans community
6142 that I kind of wanted to
6143 set the record straight on
6144 um
6145 so
6146 I feel like
6147 because I am trans
6148 I've encountered this
6149 that people are under the assumption
6150 that
6151 um
6152 I knew that I was trans
6153 when I was younger
6154 um
6155 if people
6156 talk to me
6157 they'll say
6158 well you never identified
6159 as a female
6160 like
6161 you've always been a boy
6162 you always felt like
6163 you were a boy
6164 and
6165 to that I have to say
6166 no
6167 I did not
6168 um
6169 there's just this common thought
6170 that we all knew
6171 when we were five years old
6172 and
6173 you know
6174 that we knew
6175 we were trans
6176 whether you were
6177 a female to male

6178 that when your mom
6179 put you in a dress
6180 and it was time to
6181 go to church
6182 that you were
6183 that it didn't fit you
6184 that you felt uncomfortable
6185 that you were always ripping off your dress
6186 and saying
6187 no
6188 I'm a boy
6189 like
6190 um
6191 or
6192 that if you
6193 were a um
6194 male to female
6195 transgender person
6196 that you played with barbies
6197 because you
6198 always knew that you were trans
6199 that you never identified as a male
6200 that you're disgusted by your body parts
6201 and all of this stuff
6202 and I just
6203 no
6204 just no
6205 I
6206 personally speaking
6207 I did not know I was transgender
6208 until my twenties
6209 but I did not come to terms with it
6210 and start discovering my gender identity
6211 where I could say
6212 for sure I'm transgender
6213 until last year
6214 and I am twenty-five years old