



Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?

By Heath Fogg Davis

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Goes beyond transgender to question the need for gender classification.

Beyond Trans pushes the conversation on gender identity to its limits: questioning the need for gender categories in the first place. Whether on birth certificates or college admissions applications or on bathroom doors, why do we need to mark people and places with sex categories? Do they serve a real purpose or are these places and forms just mechanisms of exclusion? Heath Fogg Davis offers an impassioned call to rethink the usefulness of dividing the world into not just Male and Female categories but even additional categories of Transgender and gender fluid. Davis, himself a transgender man, explores the underlying gender-enforcing policies and customs in American life that have led to transgender bathroom bills, college admissions controversies, and more, arguing that it is necessary for our society to take real steps to challenge the assumption that gender matters.

He examines four areas where we need to re-think our sex-classification systems: sex-marked identity documents such as birth certificates, driver's licenses and passports; sex-segregated public restrooms; single-sex colleges; and sex-segregated sports. Speaking from his own experience and drawing upon major cases of sex discrimination in the news and in the courts, Davis presents a persuasive case for challenging how individuals are classified according to sex and offers concrete recommendations for alleviating sex identity discrimination and sex-based disadvantage.

For anyone in search of pragmatic ways to make our world more inclusive, Davis' recommendations provide much-needed practical guidance about how to work through this complex issue. A provocative call to action, *Beyond Trans* pushes us to think how we can work to make America truly inclusive of all people.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[R]efreshing. Davis situates the struggle for transgender dignity and rights squarely within the larger framework of personal freedom and privacy concerns, and shows how removing institutional barriers to living beyond the gender binary can help everyone live fuller, freer lives."-*Reason Magazine*

"Both clear-eyed and eye-opening, *Beyond Trans* challenges all of us gender-nonconforming and cisgender, trans and gender-conforming, individuals and organizations to ask ourselves why and how we are using sex classifications, what harm they might be doing, and just how they re even defining sex. A provocative and compelling book."-Joshua Gamson,author of *Modern Families: Stories of Extraordinary Journeys to Kinship*

"In a lively and accessible style, Davis questions the administrative and social practices of labeling individuals sex or gender solely in correspondence with the binary categories of female or male. He challenges the validity of sex-identifying documents and sex-segregated facilities or institutions even competitive sports as solutions to privacy, safety, or equality. This is a thought-provoking and highly relevant subject, perfect for today s political and cultural debates."-Jamison Green,author of *Becoming a Visible Man*

"Davis argues that current precedent that restricts discriminating against people on the basis of gender could be used to challenge laws or practices that discriminate against people perceived as falling outside the gender binary. More broadly, we can all work toward a change in perspective. Demanding that people conform to stereotypes of masculinity or femininity does everybody harm. So instead of trying to fit more people into society s preexisting categories, we might try rethinking whether we need those categories at all."-Quartz.com

"Reading *Beyond Trans* is like having one s window shades thrown open after arising from a long night of sleep: the sunlight burns the eyes, but it awakens them . . . Beyond Trans features accessible, clear prose and direct argumentation. Anyone with an interest in trans rights and the public application of gender theory would benefit from Davis book. Beyond Trans is as much a call to remediate the harm done to trans, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals as it is a plea for good reasoning."-Popmatters.com

"This highly recommended work offers clear, real-world discussions of issues facing transgender people, along with practical applications and solutions."-*Starred Library Journal*

"Davis challenges readers to consider why binary sex identity categories are used so pervasively in our everyday lives, and whether such routine categorization is needed . . . The author, a transgender man of color, approaches this topic as both an expert scholar and an individual whose own identity has been subject to hostile scrutiny." -*Starred Publishers Weekly*

In this important and original book, Davis argues that most bureaucracies should get out of the business of administering sex by classifying people as Female or Male. Drawing on a number of case studies, including identity documents, bathroom bills, college admissions, and sex-testing for athletes, Davis shows most policies for sex classification are not rationally related to legitimate government interests. Drawing on a range of literatures and methods, including critical race scholarship, feminist theory, auto-ethnography, and doctrinal legal analysis, *Beyond Trans* is applied political theory at its best. -Paisley Currah,co-editor, *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* --Transgender studies

"Why and when is it important to say whether somebody is a man or a woman? Those are the provocative questions Heath Fogg Davis poses in this informative exploration of gender markers . . . But even more provocative are the questions of how we determine what counts as man and woman in the first place, and why we imagine there can be only two genders. This is a great book for students and specialists alike who are interested in the profound transformation of gender we are all experiencing in the early twenty-first century."-Susan Stryker,co-editor of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* and author of *Transgender History*
--Transgender history

"We will soon be reading books that are truly new, indeed revolutionary, in arguing that the future of gender will be the end of gender binaries altogether. How can future writers debate essential sex differences when there are more than two sexes, or when some women and men who choose to become the other, and when some people want to be both or neither? Heath Fogg Davis's *Beyond Trans: Does gender matter?*, one of the first among many that I am sure are in the pipeline, invites readers to question why we care so much about labels and categories on drivers licences, passports and bathroom doors, and in sports and schools."-*Times Literary Supplement* --Times

About the Author

Heath Fogg Davis is Associate Professor of Political Science at Temple University. He is the author of *The Ethics of Transracial Adoption*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Cotner:

The book *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the good thing like a book *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter??* Some of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim this book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?* has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by open up and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Roland Hall:

Typically the book *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Vickie Kay:

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Trans: Does Gender Matter? because this book offers for you readable information. Do you oftentimes have book but you do not get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable set up here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss the idea? Find this book and read it from right now!

Ann Yoho:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This book Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter? was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter? has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. So , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading this.

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