



TRANS JOY: COMMUNITY & SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Karter Strider & Mentor: Dr. Sarah Mitchell

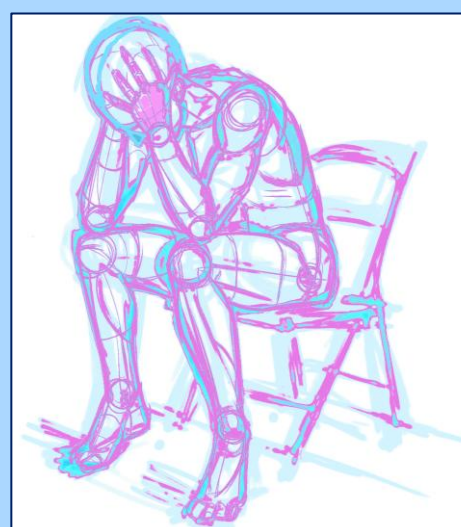
SUMMARY

Learning **how joy is cultivated** within queer community spaces is vital for promoting community building. Transgender and gender nonconforming individuals (TGNC) experience different oppressions and privileges that can be analyzed using an intersectional lens.

Research emphasizing the adverse life experiences associated with TGNC identity **contributes to an understanding of transgender people as living in misery while missing avenues that foster joy, resilience, and community connection** (Shuster & Westbrook, 2024).

Despite the challenges associated with TGNC identities there are avenues for fostering joy and building community.

Transgender individuals with strong social connections and high self-esteem have lower levels of internalized transphobia, and stronger well-being, but there is need for further investigation on **how** social connectedness contributes to well-being among TGNC individuals (Austin & Goodman, 2017). Determining how joy is created and shared is paramount to improve the lives of TGNC individuals in a nationally growing anti-trans climate.



Reddit: idontknowmylabels

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Determine the **impact of TGNC identity on involvement** in community building like support groups, collective action, and creative outlets like drag.
 - 2) Assess the **relationship between TGNC people of color (POC)** and broader queer community acceptance or rejection.
 - 3) Explore **factors** that contribute to joyful community building for TGNC individuals and **if participants highlight any differences** prior to socially transitioning.
- Isolating **“then”** and **“now”** narratives to compare
 - Questions prompt for **both/and** experiences

Guiding Research Questions:

How does trans identity **impact joy building** in communities?

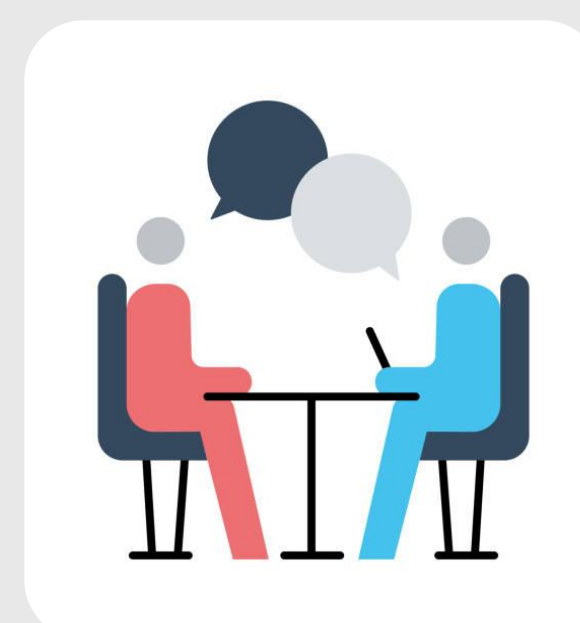
What **community attributes** are **most important** to diverse populations?

METHODS



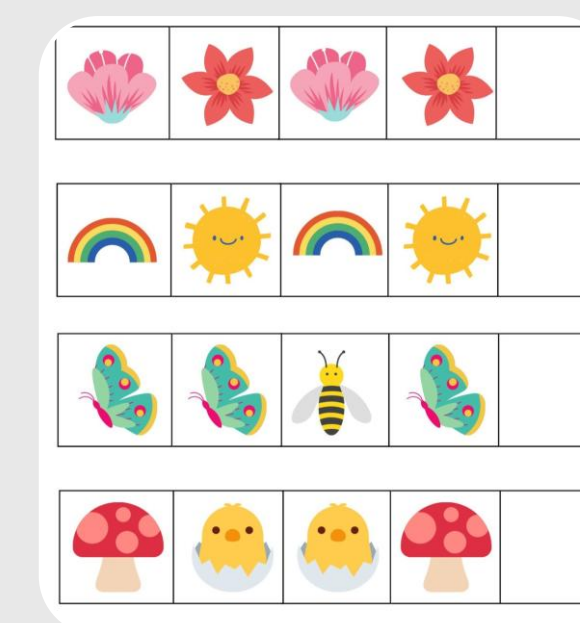
Recruitment

Participants will be recruited through snowball methods and **Prolific** (a recruitment platform that can select demographic criteria for harder to reach **target populations like TGNC POC**). Survey respondents that are eligible (being TGNC and indicating participation in community spaces) will be emailed for interview scheduling.



Interviewing

A 45–60-minute **semi-structured interview** will be conducted over Zoom with 10-15 participants who will receive a \$10 gift card as compensation. Interviewees will be asked a series of open-ended questions about their experiences as TGNC individuals in **community spaces and cultivating joy**. Participants will be encouraged to self-reflect and expand.



Analysis

Interviews will be **coded** and analyzed based on **emerging themes** and relationships. Analyses of the findings will contribute to knowledge on the 3 main objectives – largely **uncovering experiences and understandings of joy** and connection among TGNC diverse populations.

IMPACT



Artwork: Liberal Jane Illustration

Findings will be a building block for future research seeking to diminish TGNC well-being disparities and **expand TGNC narratives that highlight joy**.

Standout findings will be communicated with local northern Nevada policy makers, statewide representatives, and TGNC inclusive community centers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES & CONTACT

For more information, contact **Karter Strider** at kstrider@unr.edu

Austin, A., & Goodman, R. (2017). The Impact of Social Connectedness and Internalized Transphobic Stigma on Self-Esteem Among Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Adults. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 64(6), 825–841.

Keenoy, J.E., Paldi, R., Perry, Y., Screven, M., Eeden-Moorefield, B. V. (2024). A guide to conducting intersectional phenomenological research in family science. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 16: 633-653.

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INTERSECTIONALITY

Using an intersectional lens, we will examine the **oppressions and privileges** a TGNC person experiences **simultaneously** based on race, economic status, disability, and perceived gender presentation. By analyzing the relationships and interactions of these **shifting power dynamics** researchers can determine common themes and impacts and develop solutions that contribute to larger social justice aims (Keenoy et al., 2024). Focusing on joy will give insights on **similarities or differences on how joy is understood and experienced** by individuals with overlapping identities and can be compared to other subgroups. This will allow community organizers to make decisions that **best support TGNC diverse populations**.

