



CAN I JUST PEE?
TRANSGENDER STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION

- Introduction/Positionality
- Current Political Issues
- Current Student Issues
- Current Transgender Student Support Services – What's Working/What's Not
- Research Question
- Canon & Johnson Theory
- Research Study
- Implications
- Questions/Evaluation/Discussion

INTRODUCTION/POSITIONALITY

- Associate Director of Admission, Rice University
- Activist/Organizer: Black Lives Matter Houston
- Secretary, Houston GLBT Political Caucus
- Research Coordinator of City of Houston's LGBT Advisory Board
- Chapter Director of New Leaders Council Houston
- Recognizing my privileges
 - I am cisgender
 - I am male
 - I am same gender loving/gay
 - I am an Accomplice

CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

CURRENT LEGISLATION IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

- SB 3
 - Bathroom bill – prohibiting transgender Texans from using restroom and changing facilities consistent with their gender identity.
 - 7/26/2017 – Passed by the Senate
- SB 23
 - Prohibiting any local authority from providing nondiscrimination protections not otherwise provided in state law; repealing any existing local protections that are broader than state law.
- HB 50
 - Bathroom bill vehicle: Statewide preemption bill prohibiting any school district board of trustees from protecting a class of persons from discrimination with regard to accessing multiple-occupancy restrooms, showers, or changing facilities

THREATS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Sixteen states have considered legislation that would restrict access to multiuser restrooms, locker rooms, and other sex-segregated facilities on the basis of a definition of sex or gender consistent with sex assigned at birth or “biological sex.” (NCSL, 2017)
 - Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming
- Trump Administration has rolled back the Obama Administration’s guidelines on supporting transgender students.
 - “Dear Colleague letter”

CURRENT STUDENT ISSUES

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- Recent research suggests that transgender college students are more likely to have experienced self-injury, suicide ideation, and suicide attempts compared to cisgender students (Efrigg et al., 2011).
- Higher risk for interpersonal victimization in college, including hostility, discrimination, harassment, and violence (Seelman, 2016)
- Transgender students are also significantly more likely to consider leaving their college or university due to unsafe feelings (Schneider, 2010)
- These pieces of legislation have a direct impact on transgender college students. Transgender students have reported that bathroom access is one of their most pressing challenges related to the college climate (Seelman, 2016).
 - Denial of access to bathrooms and the denial of access to campus housing due to being transgender were statistically significantly associated with lifetime suicide attempts.

CURRENT TRANSGENDER STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

What's Working/What's Not Working

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Gender 101

Gender Binary:

The categorization of gender into two distinct, opposite sexes.



Trans/Transgender:

An umbrella term applied to those whose gender identity is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.



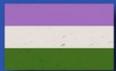
Cisgender:

Someone who identifies exclusively as their sex assigned at birth.



Genderqueer:

A term applied to individuals who do not identify within the gender binary.



Transition:

The process of changing one's gender expression to match their gender identity.



t transstudent

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@transstudent

For more information,
go to transstudent.org/graphics

TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources

Design by Landyn Pan

- Looked at as “niche” rather than as essential programming.
- Lacks a long lasting effect to address the needs for transgender students.
- Often not lead by individuals from the transgender or gender non-conforming community.

LGBT RESOURCE CENTERS



- 136 LGBT resource centers on campuses across the nation (Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, 2006).
- Under perform or offer no support for transgender students (Schneider, 2010).
- Utilizing practices that are better suited towards sexual identity development rather than gender identity development

RESIDENCE LIFE

- From 2007 to 2008, the number of campuses with gender-neutral housing has nearly doubled from 30 to 56 (Schneider, 2010)
- Allows students the ability to share housing accommodations with members of different gender identities.
- Institutions often do not change the internal facilities within gender neutral housing to accommodate the needs of transgender students.

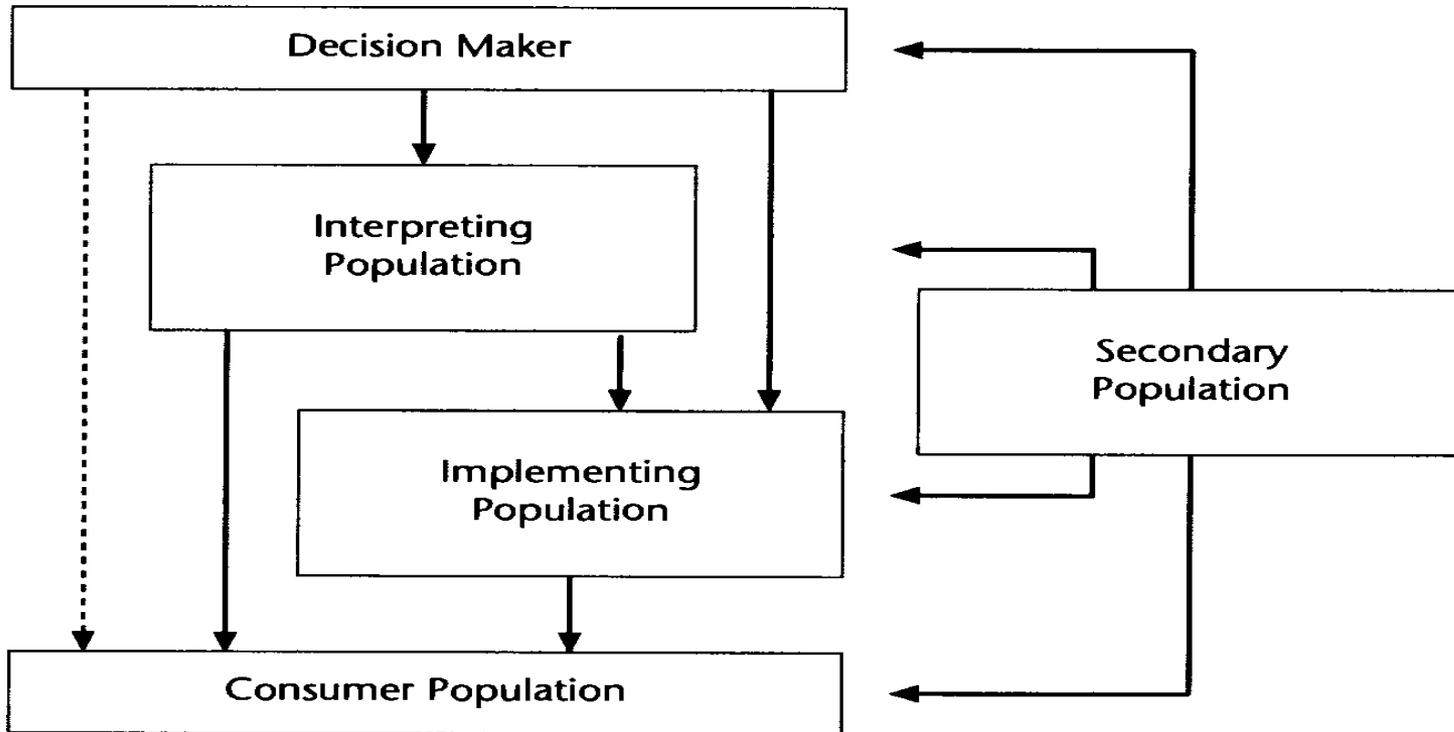


RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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- What impediments are there for higher education institutions in instituting support services for transgender students?
- What is the impact of bathroom bills on transgender college students attending public institutions in states that consider “bathroom bills”?

CANON & JOHNSON THEORY



Source: Adapted from Charles A. Johnson, "The Implementation and Impact of Judicial Policies: A Heuristic Model," in *Public Law and Public Policy*, ed. John A. Gardiner (New York: Praeger, 1977), 107–126, with permission of the publisher.

CANON & JOHNSON – BATHROOM BILLS

- Gloucester County vs. Gavin Grimm
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit – Ruled in Favor of Gavin Grim – 2016
- Supreme Court – Refuses to Hear the Case
- Trump Administration Roles Back the Dear Colleague Letter
- Institutions stop advancing support services
- What happens to transgender students?

RESEARCH STUDY

RESEARCH STUDY

- Qualitative Study focusing on the experiences of transgender college students who attend public colleges and universities in states that have considered bathroom bills.
 - Focusing primarily on Texas, but would like to expand to other states.
 - 30 interviews of transgender students
 - Intention to focus also on the experience of transgender students of color.
- Questions
 - Their feelings on attending their institution
 - Have they thought about transferring?
 - Student support services within their institution

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

HEALTH CARE METHODS



- Mandatory transgender education training sessions for health center and counseling staff.
 - Recognition that the external appearance of a transgender student may differ from the person's internal anatomy.
- Health care and counseling programs specific to transgender students.
 - University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and UC-Berkeley have all developed specific health care and counseling programs for transgender students.

LGBT INCLUSION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

- Integrating the experiences of LGBTQ people into the curriculum
- Been done with Humanities and Social Sciences
- STEM Related Fields
- Carnegie Mellon University Statistics Class
 - “Can someone change their gender identity?”
 - How many people are in a same-sex relationship
 - Learned more about LGBTQ people and increased their cultural competency

INCLUSIVE QUESTIONS ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Common Application added “gender identity” during the 2016-2017 application cycle
 - Optional free response text field
- Colleges should ask questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation on their applications to be able to gather these data for students who apply, who are admitted, and who attend the institution.
- These questions should be optional.
- These data should never be listed in the visible directory, as they are covered under FERPA/HIPAA
- Because sexual orientation and gender identity are separate aspects of identity, colleges should never combine them into one question (Do you identify as a part of the LGBTQ+ community?)
- Students should have the ability to change these identities on campus records during their academic careers.

MOVING AWAY FROM ACCOMMODATION LOGIC

- Moving away from accommodation logic towards a trans liberatory politic that would affect conceptions of gender on campus?
- What are the areas of trans students (and faculty and staff) lives that we aren't even touching? Academic advising? Career Counseling? Sexual assault?
- When we serve the most marginalized, we all succeed!!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Email if you would like a copy of the presentation,
- if you would like to participate/contribute to my research
- if you have any questions
- If you just want to talk, vent, anything!