

Documenting their lives: LGBTIQ Identities

NJLA Conference

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Transgender Nonfiction

As nature made him: the boy who was raised as a girl by John Colapinto, 2000

Following a botched circumcision, a family is convinced to raise their infant son, Bruce, as a girl. They rename the child Brenda and spend the next 14 years trying to transform him into a her. Brenda's childhood is one filled with anxiety and loneliness, and her fear and confusion are present on nearly every page concerning her early childhood.

Becoming a visible man by Jamison Green, 2004

This book combines candid autobiography with informed analysis to offer unique insight into the multiple challenges of the female-to-male transsexual experience, ranging from encounters with prejudice and strained relationships with family to the development of an FTM community and the realities of surgical sex reassignment.

Diary of a drag queen by Daniel Harris, 2005

A revealing, comic, and sexually charged chronicle of hundreds of one-night stands in high heels.

Disciplining gender: rhetorics of sex identity in contemporary U.S. culture by John M. Sloop, 2004

Critical readings of five cases, showing the extent to which, in each instance, public discourse and media representations have served to reinforce dominant norms and constrain or "discipline" any behavior that blurs or subverts conventional gender boundaries.

Dress codes: of three girlhoods—my mother's, my father's, and mine by Noelle Howey, 2002

Howey was a teenager when she learned her emotionally distant father like to dress in women's clothes, and she recounts the family's struggle to adjust when he left and began to live as a woman.

Evolution's rainbow: diversity, gender, and sexuality in nature and people by Joan Roughgarden, 2004

Taking on the medical establishment, the Bible, social science and even Darwin himself, the author, a distinguished evolutionary biologist, challenges accepted wisdom about gender identity and sexual orientation in this innovative celebration of diversity and affirmation of individuality in animals and humans.

Gay, lesbian, and transgender issues in education edited by James T. Sears, 2005

Presents LGBTIQ youth issues through the words of the adolescents themselves, along with clear up-to-date essays about LGBTIQ youth programs, policies, and practices around the world.

Gender frontier by Mariette Pathy Allen, 2003.

Documents through photographs the lives of a number of transgender people who have chosen varying degrees of physical alteration in their quests to live authentically.

GLBTQ: the survival guide for queer and questioning teens by Kelly Huegel and Steven Cozza, 2003

Describes the challenges faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered teens, offers practical advice, real-life experiences, and accessible resources and support groups.

Handbook of LGBT issues in community mental health edited by Ronald E. Hellman and Jack Drescher, 2004

Provides reliable, up-to-date information on clinical issues, administrative practices, and health concerns related to the provision of public sector mental health services to LGBT people.

He's my daughter: a mother's journey to acceptance by Lynda Langley, 2002

A mother tells her story about loving and accepting her son as he became her daughter.

How sex changed: a history of transsexuality in the United States by Joanne J. Meyerowitz, 2002. Looking at transsexuals, famous and not so famous, the doctors performing or withholding surgeries, and the liberation movements of recent decades, the author provides a good historical overview of transsexuality.

I am my own wife: the true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf by Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, 2004
In this exquisitely written autobiography, the author reveals her lifelong pursuit of sexual liberty.

Just add hormones: an insider's guide to the transsexual experience by Matt Kailey, 2005
Explores the complexities of the female-to-male (ftm) transition, including chest surgery, and options open to male-to-females (mtfs) as well as the more complicated, expensive surgeries now available to ftms. Include a list of definitions helpful for negotiating the world of trans-speak.

Love makes a family: portraits of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents and their families
edited by Peggy Gillespie, 1999
This collection of informal family portraits and interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents and their children grew out of a photo exhibit created by photographer Gigi Kaeser.

The man who would be queen: the science of gender-bending and transsexualism by J. Michael Bailey, 2003
Based on current research and presenting real-life case studies of transsexuals and homosexuals who struggle with their identity and seek acceptance from society, family, and friends, this book explores sex and gender and demonstrates science doesn't always deliver comfortable answers.

My husband Betty: love, sex, and life with a cross dresser by Helen Boyd, 2003
This book about relationships, features interviews with a dominatrix and her cross-dressing husband; a cross-dressing Reiki master and his son; a woman who after dating one cross-dresser wanted to date others and met—and fell in love with—a transsexual instead; and a woman whose husband promised her he was only a cross-dresser and later realized that he was transsexual.

Normal: transsexual CEOs, cross-dressing cops, hermaphrodites with attitude by Amy Bloom, 2002
The author recounts her illuminating conversations with straight men who feel compelled to dress as women and their amazingly supportive wives; individuals who were born with a woman's body and a man's soul who underwent excruciating and expensive surgery in order to live as their true selves; people born with "ambiguous genitals"; surgeons who perform the complicated, sometimes controversial operations that "correct" these confusing states; and the activists and entrepreneurs who support them.

Out of the ordinary: essays on growing up with gay, lesbian, and transgender parents edited by Noelle Howey and Ellen Samuels, 2000
Ranging from humorous to poignant, this groundbreaking collection of essays by the grown children of lesbian, gay, and transgender parents touch on some of the most important and complicated issues facing them: dealing with a parent's sexuality while developing an identity of one's own; overcoming homophobia at school and at family or social gatherings; and defining the modern family.

Peninsular of lies: a true story of mysterious birth and taboo love by Edward Ball, 2004
In 1968, an eccentric middle-aged English writer named Gordon Hall scandalized his adoptive home town of Charleston, South Carolina, by undergoing a sex change. Returning from surgery as a woman called Dawn, she married a black mechanic nearly three decades her junior, and set tongues further wagging by appearing with a baby daughter whom she claimed as her own.

The riddle of gender: science, activism, and transgender rights by Deborah Rudacille, 2005
Case histories, historical and scientific research, and interviews with activists inform this even-handed look at the issues surrounding transgenderism.

The rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people by Nan D. Hunter, Courtney G. Joslin, and Sharon M. McGowan, 2004
The authoritative American Civil Liberties Union guide.

Same difference: how gender myths are hurting our relationships, our children, and our jobs by Rosalind Barnett and Caryl Rivers, 2004

Examining some of the myths about gender difference, the authors explain why it is important to move beyond biological determinism and sexual stereotypes to see how behavior and thinking really occurs in individuals.

Sexing the body: gender politics and the construction of sexuality by Anne Fausto-Sterling, 2000
Considering medical, scientific and social concepts of sex and gender, the author convincingly argues that one's physical characteristics don't necessarily equate with one's gender.

Sexual metamorphosis: an anthology of transsexual memoirs edited by Jonathan Ames, 2005
Fifteen selections from famous to less-well-known transgender individuals.

She's not there: a life in two genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan, 2003
With a good dose of humor, Boylan recounts her forty years in the wrong body and her transition to the woman she is today.

Suits me: the double life of Billy Tipton by Diane Wood Middlebrook, 1998
Married and a father, Tipton performed on the jazz circuit for nearly 50 years, only to be revealed to be a woman at death.

Transgender warriors: making history from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman by Leslie Feinberg, 1996
Both deeply personal and widely researched. Feinberg examines perceptions of the body, the status of clothing, and the structures of societies that welcome or are threatened by gender variance.

True selves: understanding transsexualism—for families, friends, coworkers, and helping professionals by Mildred L. Brown and Chloe Ann Rounsley, 1996

A vivid portrait detailing the process of transition between genders, starting with legal and identity changes and proceeding to changing outward modes of self-presentation, dealing with bathroom issues, hormone treatments, surgical options, and guidelines for finding social support.

Wrapped in blue: a journey of discovery by Donna Rose, 2003
The emotional story of the author's courageous and difficult journey across the gender line provides a unique, intriguing, and sometimes humorous perspective on the differences between men and women.

L. Baldwin
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