

Resisting Transnormativity: challenging the medicalization and regulation of trans bodies

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This paper investigates some of the medical and legal procedures and policies of sex reassignment within Canada and the United States. The leveraging of medical discourse in the fight for trans rights reinforces neoliberal discourses of individualism and equal rights. Through medicalization, gender-conforming trans persons are able to access treatment, such as hormone therapy and gender-confirming surgeries, while nonnormative trans persons are often denied services. Transnormative narratives of transition reinforce medical discourses of what it means to be trans and how to be trans. These narratives simultaneously legitimize transsexuality for those who can conform to the dominant narrative while delegitimizing gender variance and nonconforming trans persons. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2015 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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When Jenna Talackova entered the 2012 Miss Universe Canada competition, she did not disclose her history of being born and assigned male at birth (nor should she have to). When the competition's

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