my gender workbook kate bornstein

My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein: A Transformative Guide to Understanding Gender

my gender workbook kate bornstein is more than just a book—it's an invitation to explore, question, and redefine the complex world of gender. Authored by Kate Bornstein, a renowned gender theorist, performer, and activist, this workbook has become a cornerstone resource for anyone interested in gender identity, expression, and the fluidity that defies traditional binaries. Whether you're someone questioning your own gender, a supportive ally, or a professional working in fields related to gender and sexuality, this workbook offers profound insights wrapped in approachable exercises.

Who is Kate Bornstein and Why This Workbook Matters

Kate Bornstein's journey as a transgender author and activist has deeply influenced contemporary conversations around gender. Bornstein's work challenges rigid gender norms and invites readers to rethink the societal expectations placed upon bodies and identities. My Gender Workbook emerged from this mission, providing a hands-on, interactive experience that guides readers through understanding and dismantling gender stereotypes.

Unlike typical academic texts, this workbook uses a conversational tone, humor, and reflective prompts to make the exploration of gender accessible and engaging. It's designed to empower readers to embrace their authentic selves, whether that means identifying outside the traditional male/female binary or simply gaining a better understanding of gender diversity.

What Makes My Gender Workbook Unique?

Unlike many resources that focus purely on theory, My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein integrates practical exercises that encourage introspection and active learning. This approach helps readers not only absorb information but also apply it to their own lives.

Interactive and Reflective Exercises

The workbook includes a variety of activities such as journaling prompts, quizzes, and thought experiments. These exercises help readers:

- Recognize how gender norms have shaped their personal experiences.
- Explore feelings about gender identity and expression.
- Challenge internalized biases or societal pressures.
- Develop language and tools to articulate their own gender narratives.

These practical elements set My Gender Workbook apart from other gender theory books, making it a dynamic tool for self-discovery.

An Inclusive and Non-Judgmental Approach

Kate Bornstein writes with empathy and inclusivity, acknowledging the diverse ways people experience gender. The workbook is intentionally non-prescriptive; it doesn't force readers into predefined categories. Instead, it celebrates fluidity, complexity, and the spectrum of gender identities.

This inclusive lens makes the workbook a safe space for people of all backgrounds, whether they're transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, or simply curious about the topic.

Key Themes Explored in My Gender Workbook

Kate Bornstein's workbook covers a wide range of topics that illuminate the multifaceted nature of gender. Here are some of the core themes that readers will encounter:

Deconstructing Gender Norms

One of the workbook's primary goals is to help readers understand how gender is socially constructed. By breaking down the "rules" society imposes on what it means to be male or female, the workbook encourages critical thinking about norms that often go unquestioned.

Gender Identity and Expression

The workbook delves deeply into the difference between gender identity (one's internal sense of self) and gender expression (how one presents to the world). It highlights the importance of respecting all forms of expression and understanding that identity isn't always visible.

Language and Labels

Language shapes how we perceive ourselves and others. My Gender Workbook offers thoughtful discussions on the evolving terminology around gender, encouraging readers to find words that resonate with their experiences while respecting the preferences of others.

How My Gender Workbook Benefits Different Readers

Whether you're just beginning to question gender or have been exploring it for years, this workbook can offer valuable perspectives.

For Individuals Exploring Their Own Gender

Many readers find the workbook helpful as a personal guide to self-awareness. The exercises prompt honest reflection, making it easier to untangle complex feelings and discover authentic ways to express gender.

For Allies and Educators

Understanding gender diversity is crucial for creating inclusive environments. Allies and educators can use the workbook's insights to develop empathy and learn respectful ways to support transgender and non-binary individuals.

For Counselors and Therapists

Professionals working in mental health or social services may find My Gender Workbook a useful tool for facilitating discussions about gender with clients. Its accessible language and structured exercises can complement therapeutic approaches.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of My Gender Workbook

To fully benefit from Kate Bornstein's workbook, consider these suggestions:

- 1. **Take Your Time:** The workbook is designed for thoughtful reflection, so don't rush through the exercises. Spend time with each prompt and allow your thoughts to evolve.
- 2. **Journal Regularly:** Keeping a dedicated journal alongside the workbook can help track your progress and insights over time.
- 3. **Engage with Community:** Joining groups or forums focused on gender diversity can provide additional support and perspectives as you work through the book.
- 4. Revisit Exercises: Gender identity and understanding can shift, so returning to the workbook periodically can offer new insights.

The Impact of My Gender Workbook in Today's

Society

In an era when conversations about gender are gaining visibility, My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein remains a relevant and powerful resource. Its influence extends beyond individual readers to educational institutions, LGBTQ+ organizations, and gender studies programs.

By fostering a deeper understanding of gender fluidity, the workbook helps dismantle prejudices and promotes a culture of acceptance. Moreover, it gives voice to those who have historically been marginalized by rigid gender norms.

The Workbook's Role in Gender Education

Many schools and universities have incorporated My Gender Workbook into curricula to provide students with a nuanced understanding of gender. Its interactive nature makes it an effective teaching tool, encouraging students to engage personally with complex concepts.

Empowering Self-Discovery in Non-Binary and Trans Communities

For non-binary and transgender individuals, the workbook often serves as a source of empowerment. It validates diverse gender experiences and offers pathways to articulate identity in a society that is still evolving in its acceptance.

The book's emphasis on self-definition aligns perfectly with contemporary movements advocating for gender inclusivity and human rights.

Where to Find My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein

My Gender Workbook is widely available through major book retailers, both in physical bookstores and online platforms. Additionally, many LGBTQ+ community centers and libraries may carry copies for lending.

For those interested in digital formats, e-book versions can be convenient for interactive use. Some editions also come with supplementary materials or updated content reflecting ongoing discussions around gender.

Exploring Kate Bornstein's other works can also offer a broader context and deeper dive into gender theory and activism.

Engaging with My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein is more than an educational experience—it's a personal journey toward understanding the rich, diverse spectrum of human gender. Its thoughtful exercises, compassionate tone, and groundbreaking insights continue to inspire readers to live authentically and challenge societal norms with confidence. Whether you're beginning to explore your gender or seeking tools to better support others,

this workbook remains an invaluable companion in the ongoing conversation about identity and self-expression.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'My Gender Workbook' by Kate Bornstein about?

'My Gender Workbook' by Kate Bornstein is an interactive guide that explores gender identity and expression, offering exercises and insights to help readers understand and challenge traditional gender norms.

Who is Kate Bornstein, the author of 'My Gender Workbook'?

Kate Bornstein is a writer, performance artist, and gender theorist known for their work on gender identity, transgender issues, and queer theory. They are a prominent advocate for non-binary and transgender communities.

How does 'My Gender Workbook' approach the topic of gender?

'My Gender Workbook' uses a participatory approach with worksheets, quizzes, and exercises to encourage readers to reflect on their own experiences and societal gender constructs, promoting a fluid and inclusive understanding of gender.

Is 'My Gender Workbook' suitable for people questioning their gender identity?

Yes, 'My Gender Workbook' is designed to be accessible and supportive for individuals questioning their gender identity, providing tools to explore and affirm their personal experiences with gender.

What makes 'My Gender Workbook' different from other gender-related books?

Unlike traditional gender studies books, 'My Gender Workbook' is interactive and personalized, combining theory with practical exercises, making it a unique resource for self-exploration and understanding of gender diversity.

Additional Resources

Exploring Identity: A Critical Review of My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein

my gender workbook kate bornstein stands as a pivotal resource in contemporary gender literature, intersecting personal narrative, educational guidance, and social commentary. Authored by Kate Bornstein, a renowned gender theorist and activist, the workbook offers a unique interactive approach to understanding and exploring gender beyond conventional binaries. This article delves deeply into the content, structure, and cultural

significance of *My Gender Workbook*, evaluating its role in both personal introspection and broader gender discourse.

Contextualizing My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein

Kate Bornstein, a transgender author and performance artist, has been a prominent figure in LGBTQ+ advocacy and gender theory for decades. *My Gender Workbook* emerged as a groundbreaking text that seeks to demystify gender as a social construct while simultaneously providing readers with practical exercises designed to challenge and expand their perceptions of identity.

Published initially in the late 1990s, the workbook remains relevant today, especially amid growing public conversations around non-binary, genderqueer, and fluid identities. Bornstein's work is often contrasted with more traditional gender studies texts due to its participatory format, which encourages active engagement rather than passive consumption.

Interactive Format and Educational Approach

One of the defining features of *My Gender Workbook* is its workbook format, which includes quizzes, thought experiments, and writing prompts. This structure invites readers to reflect on their own experiences and assumptions about gender, making it an educational tool that promotes self-awareness.

The workbook is divided into thematic sections that cover a wide array of topics such as gender stereotypes, societal expectations, language, and the interplay between gender and sexuality. Each section culminates in exercises designed to provoke critical thinking and personal exploration.

This method sets it apart from more academic or narrative-driven texts. Instead of merely presenting theory, Bornstein's workbook fosters an experiential learning environment that can be especially beneficial for individuals questioning their gender identity or seeking to understand the complexities of gender diversity.

Key Themes and Concepts

At its core, *My Gender Workbook* challenges the rigidity of the gender binary. It argues that gender is a spectrum influenced by cultural norms, personal identity, and social interaction rather than a fixed biological fact. Bornstein introduces the concept of "genderfuckery" — a playful yet intentional disruption of traditional gender norms — as a form of empowerment and resistance.

The workbook also addresses intersectionality, recognizing how race, class, sexuality, and other identities intersect with gender to shape individual experiences. This inclusive approach broadens the workbook's applicability across diverse communities.

Additionally, Bornstein discusses the psychological impact of gender conformity and the liberation found in embracing one's authentic self. The

exercises encourage readers to confront internalized biases and societal pressures, fostering a nuanced understanding of gender as a dynamic and evolving identity.

Comparative Analysis: My Gender Workbook vs. Other Gender Literature

To fully appreciate the distinctive qualities of *My Gender Workbook*, it is useful to compare it with other seminal texts in gender studies. Unlike Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*, which is heavily theoretical and academic, Bornstein's workbook prioritizes accessibility and personal engagement. Butler's work lays the philosophical groundwork for gender performativity, whereas Bornstein's workbook translates these ideas into practical, lived experiences.

Similarly, compared to memoirs like Janet Mock's *Redefining Realness*, which focus on personal narrative, *My Gender Workbook* balances autobiographical elements with interactive exercises and broader social analysis. This hybrid approach enables it to function both as a guide for self-discovery and as an educational resource suitable for classroom settings.

In terms of audience, Bornstein's workbook is more approachable for those new to gender theory or for individuals outside academia. Its conversational tone and inclusive language make complex ideas digestible, which enhances its appeal in community workshops, support groups, and personal use.

Strengths and Limitations

The strengths of *My Gender Workbook* lie in its innovative format and its ability to engage readers actively. The combination of theory, personal insight, and interactive content encourages a deeper exploration of gender identity than many traditional texts.

• Strengths:

- o Accessible language and conversational tone
- Interactive exercises fostering self-reflection
- Inclusive and intersectional framework
- Encouragement of gender fluidity and non-conformity

However, some critics point out that the workbook's informal style may not satisfy readers seeking rigorous academic scholarship. Additionally, because the text was originally published several decades ago, some references and cultural contexts may feel dated for contemporary audiences.

• Limitations:

- Less emphasis on emerging gender identities and terminologies
- Potentially dated cultural references
- May lack depth for academic research purposes

Despite these considerations, the workbook has been updated in later editions to incorporate new perspectives, maintaining its relevance in an evolving social landscape.

Impact and Cultural Significance of My Gender Workbook

The influence of *My Gender Workbook* extends beyond individual readers to affect how gender is discussed in educational institutions and activist circles. Its participatory design has inspired educators to adopt more interactive and inclusive teaching methods related to gender diversity.

Moreover, Bornstein's work has been instrumental in validating non-binary and genderqueer identities during periods when such identities were largely marginalized. This cultural impact is reflected in the workbook's continued citation in gender studies curricula and LGBTQ+ advocacy programs.

The workbook also contributes to a broader societal shift toward recognizing gender as a multifaceted and personal experience. By dismantling rigid gender categories, Bornstein encourages a culture of acceptance and fluidity that resonates with younger generations seeking freedom from traditional norms.

Who Should Read My Gender Workbook?

My Gender Workbook is particularly beneficial for:

- 1. Individuals exploring their own gender identity and expression
- 2. Educators and facilitators seeking interactive tools for teaching gender concepts
- 3. Allies and advocates aiming to deepen their understanding of gender diversity
- 4. Students and researchers interested in accessible gender theory

Its hands-on approach is ideal for those who prefer experiential learning over purely theoretical reading, making it a versatile resource across various contexts.

Final Reflections on My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein

In the landscape of gender literature, *My Gender Workbook* by Kate Bornstein occupies a unique space that bridges theory, personal narrative, and practical engagement. It challenges readers to rethink gender as a fluid and complex construct, offering tools to navigate and articulate their own experiences.

While it may not replace academic texts for scholarly research, its accessibility and interactivity make it a valuable resource for anyone invested in understanding or teaching gender diversity. The workbook's enduring relevance attests to Bornstein's pioneering vision and the ongoing need for inclusive and transformative conversations about gender.

As gender identity continues to evolve in public discourse, *My Gender Workbook* remains a seminal text that invites readers to question, explore, and ultimately embrace the rich spectrum of human identity.

My Gender Workbook Kate Bornstein

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my gender workbook kate bornstein: My New Gender Workbook Kate Bornstein, 2013-08-06 This updated edition of Bornstein's formative My Gender Workbook (1997) provides an invigorating introduction to contemporary theory around gender, sexuality, and power. The original is a classic of modern transgender theory and literature and, alongside Bornstein's other work, has influenced an entire generation of trans writers and artists. This revised and expanded edition extends that legacy, offering an accessible foundation for examining gender in the reader's life and in the broader culture while arguing for the dismantling of all forms of oppression. For fans of the original, Bornstein's new material merits a fresh read...--Publishers Weekly, starred review Cultural theorists have written loads of smart but difficult-to-fathom texts on gender theory, but most fail to provide a hands-on, accessible guide for those trying to sort out their own sexual identities. In My Gender Workbook, transgender activist Kate Bornstein brings theory down to Earth and provides a practical approach to living with or without a gender. Bornstein starts from the premise that there are not just two genders performed in today's world, but countless genders lumped under the two-gender framework. Using a unique, deceptively simple and always entertaining workbook format, complete with quizzes, exercises, and puzzles, Bornstein gently but firmly guides readers toward discovering their own unique gender identity. Since its first publication in 1997, My Gender Workbook has been

challenging, encouraging, questioning, and helping those trying to figure out how to become a real man, a real woman, or something else entirely. In this exciting new edition of her classic text, Bornstein re-examines gender in light of issues like race, class, sexuality, and language. With new quizzes, new puzzles, new exercises, and plenty of Kate's playful and provocative style, My New Gender Workbook promises to help a new generation create their own unique place on the gender spectrum.

my gender workbook kate bornstein: My Gender Workbook Kate Bornstein, 1998 Gender isn't just about male or female anymore - if you have any doubts, just turn on your television. RuPaul is as familiar as tomato ketchup with national radio and television shows, and transgendered folk are as common to talk-shows as screaming and yelling. But if the popularization of gender bending is revealing that male and female aren't enough, where are we supposed to go from here? Cultural theorists have written loads of smart but difficult-to-fathom texts on gender, but none provide a hands-on, accessible guide to having your own unique gender. With My Gender Workbook, Kate Bornstein brings theory down to Earth and provides a practical approach to living with or without a gender. Bornstein starts from the premise that there are not just two genders performed in today's world, but countless genders lumped under the two-gender framework. Using a unique, deceptively simple and always entertaining workbook format, Bornstein gently but firmly guides you to discover your own unique gender identity. Whether she's using the USFDA's food group triangle to explain gender, or guoting one-liners from real gender transgressors, Bornstein's first and foremost concern is making information on gender bending truly accessible. With guizzes and exercises that determine how much of a man or woman you are, My Gender Workbook gives you the tools to reach whatever point you desire on the gender continuum. Bornstein also takes aim at the recent flurry of books that attempt to naturalize gender difference, and puts books like Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus squarely where they belong: on Uranus. If you don't think you are transgendered when you sit down to read this book, you will be by the time you finish it!

my gender workbook kate bornstein: My Gender Workbook Kate Bornstein, 2013 Gender isn't just about male or female anymore - if you have any doubts, just turn on your television. RuPaul is as familiar as tomato ketchup with national radio and television shows, and transgendered folk are as common to talk-shows as screaming and yelling. But if the popularization of gender bending is revealing that male and female aren't enough, where are we supposed to go from here? Cultural theorists have written loads of smart but difficult-to-fathom texts on gender, but none provide a hands-on, accessible guide to having your own unique gender. With My Gender Workbook, Kate Bornstein brings theory down to Earth and provides a practical approach to living with or without a gender. Bornstein starts from the premise that there are not just two genders performed in today's world, but countless genders lumped under the two-gender framework. Using a unique, deceptively simple and always entertaining workbook format, Bornstein gently but firmly guides you to discover your own unique gender identity. Whether she's using the USFDA's food group triangle to explain gender, or quoting one-liners from real gender transgressors, Bornstein's first and foremost concern is making information on gender bending truly accessible. With guizzes and exercises that determine how much of a man or woman you are, My Gender Workbook gives you the tools to reach whatever point you desire on the gender continuum. Bornstein also takes aim at the recent flurry of books that attempt to naturalize gender difference, and puts books like Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus squarely where they belong: on Uranus. If you don't think you are transgendered when you sit down to read this book, you will be by the time you finish it!

my gender workbook kate bornstein: How to Understand Your Gender Alex Iantaffi, Meg-John Barker, 2017-09-21 This helpful guide presents ways we can all better understand gender, and how people can change and express their gender identity. Considering biological and cultural understandings of gender, gender expression, and relationships and sexuality, this is an excellent starting point for anybody thinking about what gender means to them.

my gender workbook kate bornstein: You're Teaching My Child What? Miriam Grossman, 2009-08-04 If you think sex education is still about the birds and the bees, think again. And it's not

about science either. In her shocking exposé, You're Teaching My Child What?, Dr. Miriam Grossman rips back the curtain on sex education today, exposing a sordid truth. Today's sex ed programs aren't based on science; they're based on liberal lies and politically correct propaganda that promote the illusion that children (yes, children) can be sexually free without risk. As a psychiatrist and expert on sexual education, Dr. Grossman cites example after example of schools and organizations whitewashing—or omitting altogether—crucial information that doesn't fit in with their PC agenda. Instead, sex educators only tell teens the facts of life that promote acceptance, sexual exploration, and experimentation. What sex educators call an education, scientists would call a scam: • Sex educators won't tell girls their bodies are biologically and chemically more susceptible to STDs; they will only say 3 million girls have a sexually transmitted infection • Educators say it's natural for children to explore their sexuality from a young age and only they can decide when it's right to have sex—the real truth is neurobiologists say teen brains are not developed to fully reason and weigh consequences, especially in the heat of the moment • Teens are told condoms, vaccines and yearly testing provide adequate protection, without being told that studies now show condoms are no match for herpes, HPV and gonorrhea In You're Teaching My Child What?, Dr. Grossman reveals biological truths that you won't find in today's classrooms. You're Teaching My Child What? is critical reading for parents with teens and instrumental in teaching children the truth about sex.

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my gender workbook kate bornstein: Emerging as Affirmative Pastoral Caregivers Beyond Gender Binaries Craig A. Rubano, 2023-11-13 Emerging as Affirmative Pastoral Caregivers Beyond Gender Binaries: Gender Creative Promise uniquely brings a gender diverse theological imagination to the field of pastoral theology, supplemented by deploying a "gender creative" interpretative lens on scripture. The reader is introduced to an array of persons diverse in their gender variance, four continua of gender (sex, identity, expression, attraction), a gender affirmative psychotherapeutic model as a template for the field of pastoral theology, common resilience strategies that transgender persons employ in the face of cultural oppression and aspersion, benefits derived from religious affiliation that can enhance resilience, and scripturally-based principles for delivering affirmative pastoral caregiving beyond gender binaries. The author encourages readers to look within and wrestle with the complexities of their own gendered selves while journeying alongside him to emerge as pastoral change-makers in their places of teaching, ministry, and caregiving.

my gender workbook kate bornstein: Valor and Vulnerability Robert C. Dykstra, Ryan LaMothe, 2025-04-10 Intimacy, vulnerability, precarity, resiliency, and loss are ingredients of any life, though they take on particular shape and tone when we listen to the experiences of boys and men. The voices and stories of men and boys are invitations for pastoral ministers and theologians to understand and respond to their joys, struggles, and sorrows, as well as to recognize and affirm their courage and strengths. In this book, thirteen scholars in pastoral theology from diverse backgrounds and perspectives collaborate in engaging art, literature, the social sciences, and cultural artifacts to explore the intersection of masculinity and religious life in rich and varied forms. Their aim, in part, is not only to deepen and appreciate wide-ranging experiences of boys and men but also to attend and respond to systemic realities that contribute to or undermine their flourishing.

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popularised medical definition of 'the transgender child' as a young person whose 'true' gender lies in the brain, or pre-social 'identity'. Contributors contest this diagnosis from a range of perspectives, including as social theorists, psychotherapists, persons living as transgender, individuals who have de-transitioned, and parents of adolescents identifying as transgender. They argue that medicine, social policy and the law build ideas about 'the transgender child', and contend that it is politics, not science, which accounts for the exponential rise in the number of children diagnosed as transgender by gender identity clinics. They conclude that today's medical and social trend for transgendering children is not liberal and progressive, but politically reactionary, physically and psychologically dangerous and abusive.

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my gender workbook kate bornstein: *Butch Is a Noun* S. Bear Bergman, 2010-11-26 Butch is a Noun, the first book by activist, gender-jammer, and performer S. Bear Bergman, won wide acclaim when published by Suspect Thoughts in 2006: a funny, insightful, and purposely unsettling manifesto on what it means to be butch (and not). In thirty-four deeply personal essays, Bear makes butchness accessible to those who are new to the concept, and makesgender outlaws of all stripes feel as though they have come home. From girls' clothes to men'shaircuts, from walking with girls to hanging with young men, Butch is a Nounchronicles the perplexities, dangers, and pleasures of living lifeoutside the gender binary. This new edition includes a new introduction by the author.

my gender workbook kate bornstein: Please Select Your Gender Patricia Gherovici, 2011-01-19 I have the worst birth defect a woman can have: I was born with a penis and a pair of testicles. Thus we meet Hera, who shares her reason for starting psychoanalysis and whose statement embodies the debate over transgenderism, rigorously dissected in Please Select Your Gender. Is it a mental disorder, as some would claim, or a matter of sexual identity? An orientation or a life choice? Despite differing opinions, transgenderism has lost much of its stigma over the past decade or so - though perhaps none of its shock value. Nevertheless, the door is open for a reformulation of the hysterical question, Am I a man or a woman? Utilizing rich clinical vignettes and elements of Lacanian theory, Patricia Gherovici demonstrates how the transgender discourse has both reoriented psychoanalytic practice and reframed debates about gender in American society at large. She traverses historical, theoretical, and clinical grounds to explore what has been termed the democratizing of gender - for what could be more democratic than the choice of one's own gender, now able to be changed on demand? Arguing for the depathologization of transgenderism, Please Select Your Gender aims to revise current notions of human sexuality in general. In doing so, it challenges the theory and practice of psychoanalysis with questions typically addressed only indirectly, but which are themselves transforming how analysis is done, advancing new ideas for the clinic that can be extrapolated to social and intellectual contexts in an effort to engage the broader dialogues of gender and sexuality.

my gender workbook kate bornstein: Gender and Sexual Identity Julie L. Nagoshi, Craig T. Nagoshi, Stephan/ie Brzuzy, 2013-10-21 The first comprehensive presentation of an explicitly transgender theory. This theory goes beyond feminist and queer theory by incorporating the idea of fluid embodiment and lived experience in conceptualizing gender and sexual identity. Beyond developing a formulation of transgender theory that incorporates the socially constructed, embodied, and self-constructed aspects of identity in the narrative of lived experiences, the authors discuss the implications of this "trans-identity theory" for theory, research, and practice.

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sexologist John Money at the center of its analysis, demonstrating the influence of his ideas of what it means to be a sexed subject.

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