

Trans Children in Schools

Understanding and Action

“I am not trapped by my
body, I am trapped by
your beliefs.”

Sass Rogando Sasot

CHRIS GODFREY

Monday 29 September 2014

The refusal of British schools to educate young people about LGBT issues is destroying lives

We can no longer ignore different sexualities in our classrooms

Answers



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Chris Godfrey

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Cameron
McWilliams



Sociological Analysis

- Institutionalisation
 - The extent to which a practice is regular and widespread
 - I+ strongly institutionalised = very regular & widespread
 - I- weakly institutionalised = not very regular or widespread
- Discursive Saturation
 - the extent to which principles of a practice is expressed in language
 - DS+ Principles more readily expressed in language
 - DS- Principles not readily expressed in language

Sociological analysis - anti-trans processes

	Level of Institutionalisation	
<i>Level of Discursive Saturation</i>	<i>I+</i>	<i>I-</i>
<i>DS+</i>	<i>Professional Cisgenderism</i>	<i>Transphobic idiolect</i>
<i>DS-</i>	<i>Cultural Cisgenderism</i>	<i>Spontaneous transphobia</i>

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Transphobia v Cisgenderism

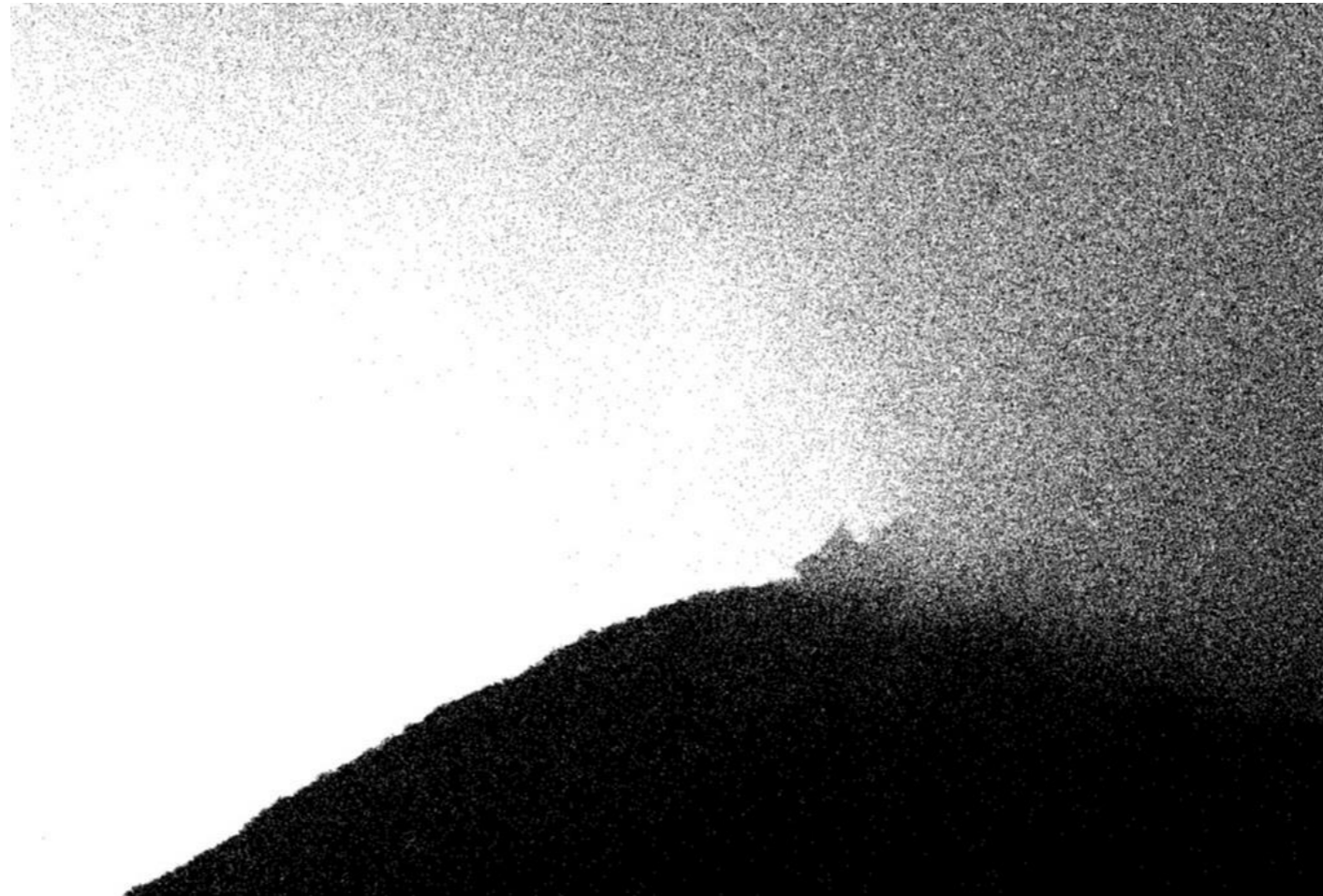
- Transphobia;
 - Hatred (sometimes fear of) trans people. Often found in right-wing political groups, some religious groups and a group called TERFs
- Cisgenderism
 - “A culture or ideology which is predominantly tacitly held and communicated. It represents a systemic erasure, problematising and delegitimising of trans people, an essentialising of gender as binary, biologically determined, fixed at birth, “natural” and externally imposed by others on the individual.”

Kennedy, N (2013) *Cultural Cisgenderism: Consequences of the Imperceptible*. British Psychological Society, Psychology of Women's Section Review.

Consequences of Cisgenderism

- Lack of understanding of trans people's lives
- Lack of self-intelligibility for trans people, especially young trans people
- Delegitimation of trans people, especially trans children
- Unawareness of discrimination, minimisation of its effects
- Regarding trans people's lives only through the lens of one's own experience.

The Mountain in the Mist.



**“Transgender”, “Trans”,
“transsexual”**

Challenging Cisgenderism, Opposing Transphobia.

- Trans girls are girls, trans boys are boys. Non-binary trans children are neither girls nor boys
- Trans children's rights;
 - To understand that other trans people exist and can live happy and productive lives.
 - To have access to vocabulary that will enable them to understand their own situations.
 - To understand the options open to them as trans people.
 - To know that they have rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to be involved in decisions taken about their lives.
 - To present in their real gender without fear, to be treated in all respects as the gender with which they identify and to be fully supported by their schools in doing this.
 - To have their needs treated as solutions not problems, for those who discriminate against them to be treated as the problem, even if those people are adults, for example, parents of other children.
 - To be accorded the same respect as all other children, including with regard to their privacy.

Leelah Acorn

- “Conversion Therapy”
- “Religious” Conversion Therapy
- Unofficial Conversion Therapy
- Psychological harm to trans children and young trans people.
- Cultural Cisgenderism means conversion therapy is, to an extent, embedded in our society.



Natacha Kennedy has identified as a girl since she was around five years old and is a former primary school teacher who now works as an academic at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She has published peer-reviewed research which has been translated into a number of other languages, and is available at gold.academia.edu/natachakennedy. She has written about trans issues for the Guardian and campaigns about trans issues in general, and about trans children in particular, all over the world, having recently spoken at conferences in Sweden, Luxembourg, Japan, Holland, Ireland, Denmark and Switzerland. She is currently studying for a PhD at UCL.