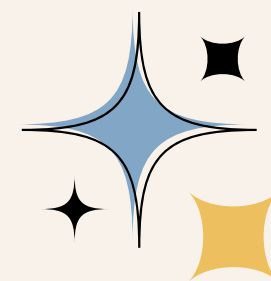
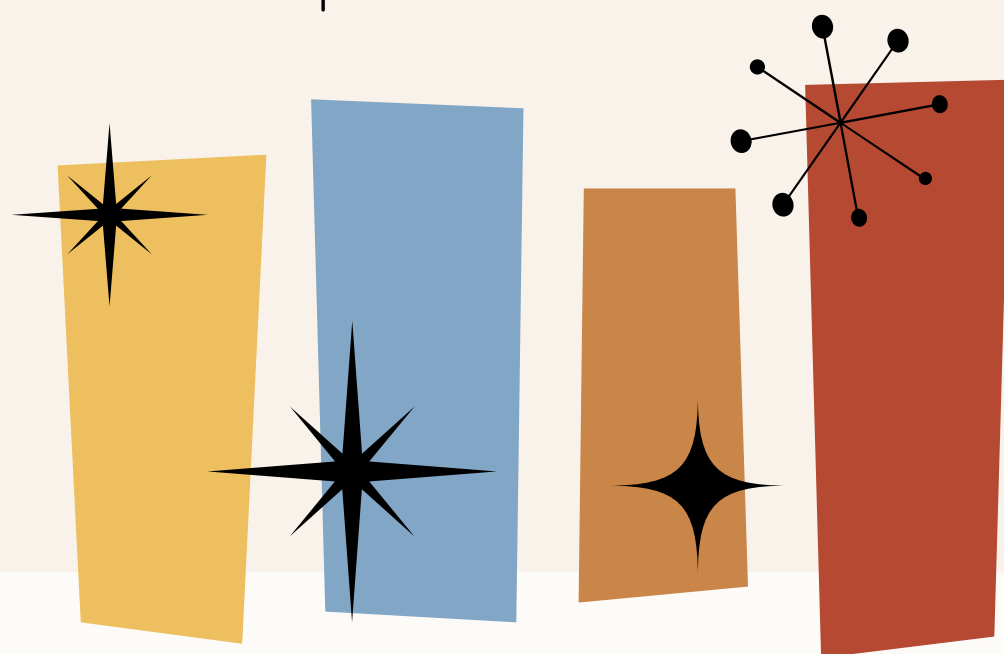


A Deep Dive Into:

CULTURAL CISGENDERISM.



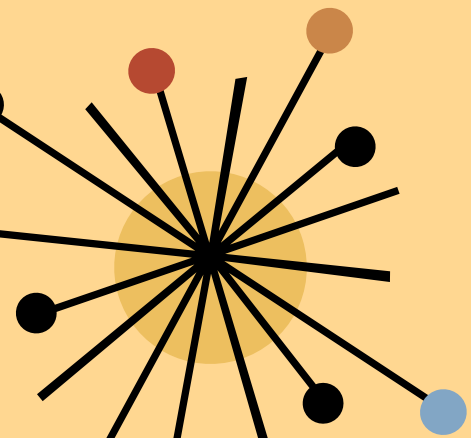
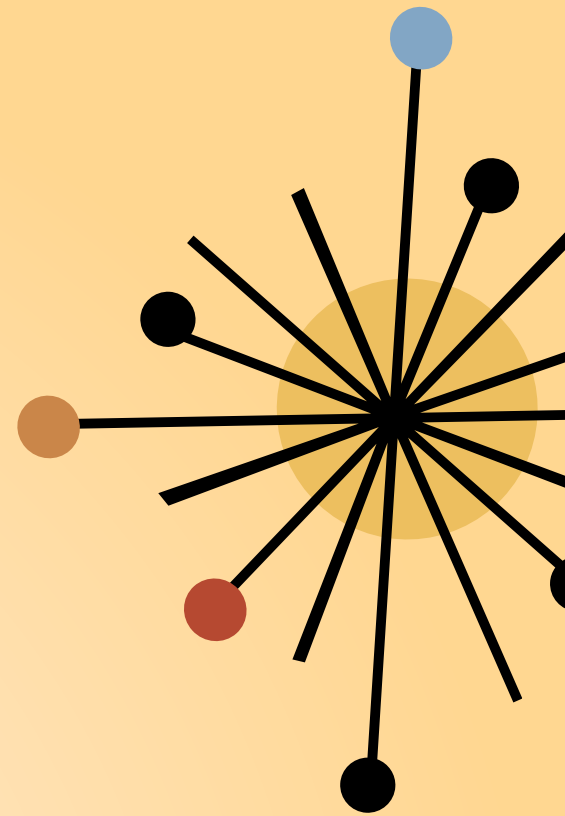
A zine exploring how cultural cisgenderism creates and curates our conception of sex and gender.



Citation: Kennedy, N. (2018). Prisoners of Lexicon: cultural cisgenderism and transgender children. Normed children: Effects of gender and sex related normativity on childhood and adolescence, 297-312.

**"I AM NOT
TRAPPED BY
MY BODY. I AM
TRAPPED BY
YOUR BELIEFS."**

- *SASS ROGANDO SASOT*



A study by Kennedy and Hellen (2010) found that the vast majority (90%-95%) of trans children's identity is not known by parents, teachers, or other adults in their community.



“Between 90% and 95% of trans children are non-apparent. Non-apparent is defined as a trans' child not known to any adult as transgender.” (Kennedy, 2018)

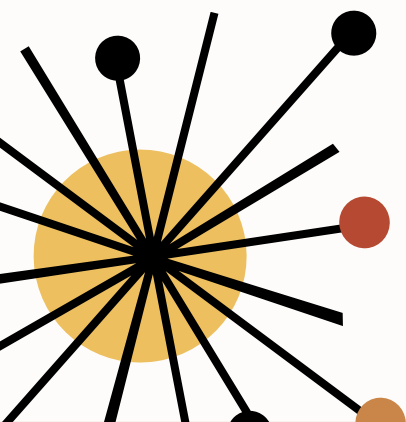


This statistic, which feels both astounding and unsurprising, led researchers to ask:

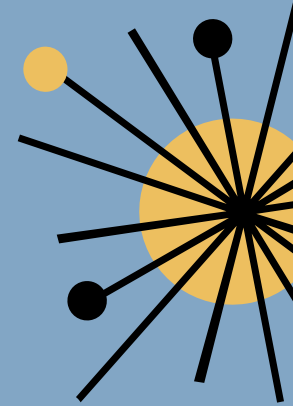


“Why do these children conceal or suppress their sex/gender non-conformity?”

- (Kennedy, 2018)



Researchers found cultural cisgenderism to be at the heart of the issue.



Cultural cisgenderism is the idea that there is a biological distinction between cis and trans folks.

It is the idea that cisgender identities are the “norm” and transgender identities are deviant from the norm, or the “other.”

Cultural cisgenderism is a largely held but rarely stated ideology. It is implicit and everywhere.

We can see the effects of this ideology in the “systemic erasure and problematizing of trans’ people.” (Kennedy, 2018)

This ideology creates the common misunderstanding that sex and gender are predetermined and unchangeable.

How does cultural cisgenderism affect children?

By eliminating trans narratives, cultural cisgenderism erases the possibility of other sexes and genders existing in the minds of young people.

It effectively creates a sort of isolating, gendered tunnel vision.



Young trans children often struggle with an illusion of singularity, or the belief that they are the only person who has ever felt this way.

Without access to trans narratives, trans children cannot ground their personal experience in any community or history.



Problematizing Transness.

Cultural cisgenderism problematizes transness, turning it into an affliction, rather than an identity.

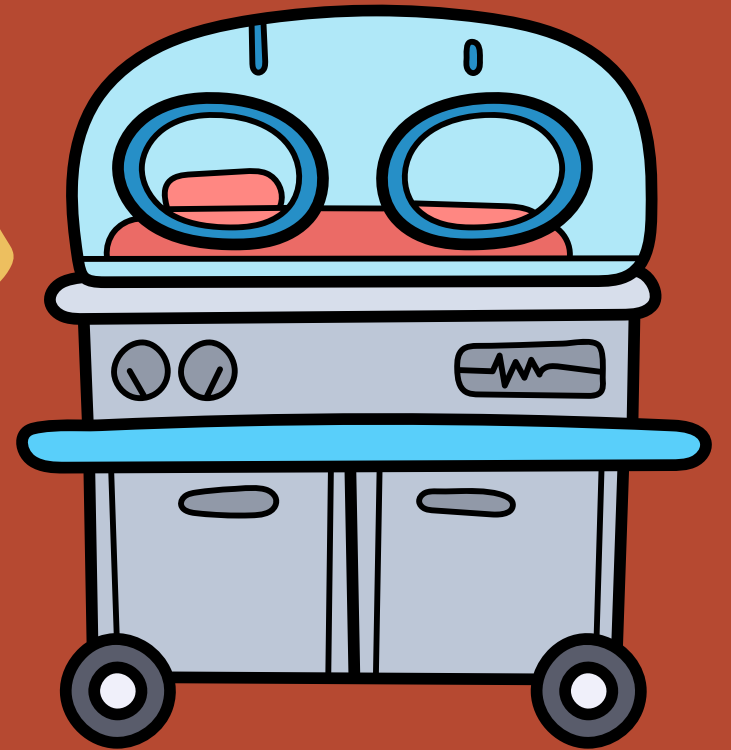


- Our culture often demands an explanation for transness, since we view it as deviant from the norm.
- This sends the message to young trans people that there is something wrong with them that needs to be fixed.

There is nothing biologically or psychologically wrong with young trans people.

What is the difference between cisgenderism and transphobia?

Our cisgenderist culture works like an incubator for transphobia.



“Cultural cisgenderism makes trans people systematically invisible.”

- (Kennedy, 2018)

In a society where cisgenderism is considered the norm, transphobia can flourish unchecked.

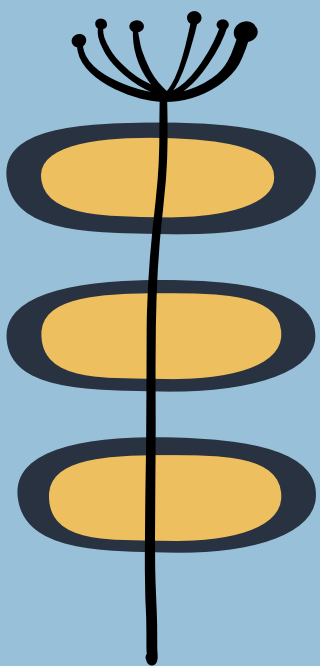
Cisgenderism affects cis people too.

Cultural cisgenderism creates and enforces rigid gender roles.

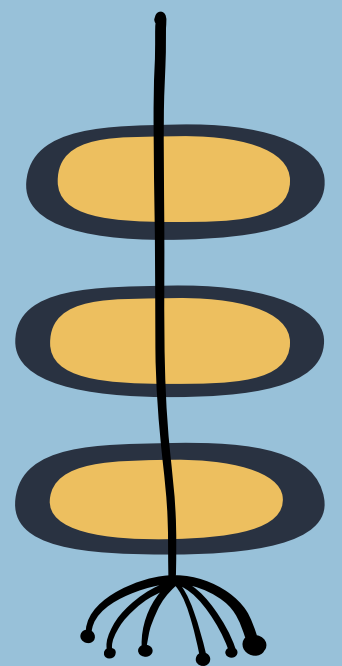


Such as:

- Men shouldn't cry or express their emotions.
- Women should want children and stay in the home.



Even for cis people, the idea that one is born to fulfil certain gender roles can feel restrictive and uncomfortable.



To be cis is to have a gender, just like trans folks.