The Silencing and the Vocalization of the Transgender Latin American and Transgender Latinx Identity

**Abstract:** Throughout Latin America and the United States, transgender individuals experience a political and social silencing and loss of personhood due to their transgression of the rigid gender binary. In the United States, transgender Latinx individuals are subject to the intersection of racial oppression and anti-transgender discrimination that work individually and jointly to strip one of their own humanity. The rates of violence against trans individuals exemplifies their societal rejection and loss of personhood, and the lack of publicity, public awareness, and public reaction regarding these widespread instances of violence exemplifies the silencing of this group of people. On local, national, and international levels, with aid from media and the internet, transgender Latin American/Latinx communities have come together both physically and virtually to provide other support and solidarity through shared experiences and identity and to give one another an audience for individual vocalization and platforms for vocalization of the identity to work to affirm a sense of humanity and value that they may feel denied. In many cases, the majority of transgender Latin American/Latinx advocacy arises from these communities. The legislation passed and rights granted in various countries across the region since the 1990s reflect the heard voices of these individuals and the increasing polarity of attitudes regarding LGBTQ+ issues and specifically transgender issues throughout the region. Despite the discrimination, violence, and silencing transgender Latin American/Latinx individuals continue to face in Latin America and the United States, in varying degrees depending on the specific area, the transgender Latin American and transgender Latinx voice has grown in volume and strength, leading to passed legislation, linguistic changes, widespread advocacy groups, greater media attention, education of the general public, and increased public awareness of the presence, experience, and demands of those that identify as transgender Latin American/Latinx as a group within but distinctly different from the predominately white transgender identity, predominantly mixed race (transgender Latin American or Latinx identity, and predominantly white and cisgender LGBTQ+ identity.

**What is gender identity?**

One's gender identity refers to one's deeply felt identification with an available identity label within the socially constructed concept of gender. This gender identity may or may not match the gender identity that one is assigned at birth.

**What does it mean to be transgender?**

The term ‘transgender’ is reflects one's identification with a gender different from the one that they were assigned at birth. Transgender identities can exist within the constructed binary or outside of the constructed binary to encompass an endless number of gender identities, including any transgender person (binary or non-binary) that identifies racially or ethnically as Latin American/Latinx, whether or not they live in Latin America presently. The transgender Latin American or Latinx identity unites a group of people with possible shared experiences. However, this identity will intersect with numerous other identities such as socioeconomic status, age, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc. that create a variety of experience even within a specific identity group.

**Silencing**

This is the process by which an individual’s identity is not recognized or not respected. This can be done through acts of discrimination or through the lack of recognition of one’s identity. It is important to note that while identity is fluid and can change over time, the silence of one’s identity can be experienced throughout one’s life.

**Expression of Silencing**

This is the process by which an individual’s identity is not respected or acknowledged. It can happen through acts of discrimination or through the lack of understanding of one’s identity. It is important to note that while identity is fluid and can change over time, the expression of one’s identity can be experienced throughout one’s life.

**Vocalization**

This is the process by which an individual’s identity is respected and acknowledged. It can happen through acts of advocacy or through the understanding of one’s identity. It is important to note that while identity is fluid and can change over time, the vocalization of one’s identity can be experienced throughout one’s life.

**SILENCING**

How has identity silenced this group?

**The Construction of the Gender Binary**

Transgender persons are offered for their transgression of the rigid gender binary. Transgender individuals experience a loss of identification with their assigned gender, which results in a rejection and the erasure of their identity. This rejection and erasure can be experienced throughout one’s life.

**Racial and/or Ethnic Oppression and Homogeneity**

Within broad parameters, nationalities are either considered majority or minority, and a majority group or a minority group refers to the proportion of the population that comprises that group. Within the broad parameters, the term ‘nationality’ is used to describe ethnic groups such as the Mayan, the Kuna, the Tzeltal, and the Tzotzil.

**Expression of Silencing**

The ‘white’ race can be defined as the races that are considered to be white, and the term ‘white’ can be used to refer to people who are considered to be white. Within broad parameters, the term ‘white’ is used to refer to people who are considered to be white.

**VOCALIZATION**

How has this identity group vocalized?

**Local Community Formation**

This is the process by which an individual’s identity is respected and acknowledged. It can happen through acts of advocacy or through the understanding of one’s identity. It is important to note that while identity is fluid and can change over time, the vocalization of one’s identity can be experienced throughout one’s life.

**National, International, and Regional Community Formation**

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**Evidenced by**

Public Policy Change

The development and increasing of knowledge about the importance of trans rights requires the knowledge to be articulated. Increasing the knowledge about the importance of trans rights is important for the development of trans policies.

**Singular Changes**

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**Bring it Home: Transgender Latinx Experience in the United States**

The status of trans Latin American/Latinx individuals in the United States vary depending on the state. Transgender Latin American/Latinx individuals in some states are protected by anti-discrimination laws, while in others they are not. The lack of protections for transgender Latin American/Latinx individuals can lead to discrimination and violence.

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