

# Review of: "Sex Reassignment and Gender Misfits"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article discusses the challenges that some trans people face as they try to conform to the rigid sex and gender roles and rules in society. The author states that the problem is not a trans person's body, which is often what is changed. Rather, the problem is the rules and roles to which one is attempting to conform.

The author states that she identifies as female because that is what is on her driver's license. It seems odd to me that there isn't some other deeper sense of who she is that helps her identify as female. For me, my driver's license says male, but I have never thought to look there to know my gender. For me, being male, which came later in life, develops out of the ways I see myself behaving in the world. Does that mean I am conforming to masculine gender roles? Possibly, but I also still carry with me the ways I was socialized as a female. I get the best of both worlds.

The author states that gender identity is "harder to grasp." It is unclear to this reviewer what makes gender identity harder to grasp. In my mind this is easier than defining gender. The problem comes, in my mind, for people who do not conform with the gender binary. Our gendered systems do not allow for anything but two genders - masculine and feminine. To the extent that a person has a gender identity that is somewhere on the gender spectrum that is between masculine and feminine - then yes, gender identity would be harder to grasp.

Similarly, the author states "It is easy to see what is wrong with sex roles." There is no clear follow-up defining why that is the case. This paper might be enhanced by comparing and contrasting gender roles and sex roles. How are these the same? How are they different? Is there one (or two) of the roles that are especially problematic for trans people and gender misfits?

This article adds to the extant literature by calling out the idea that there is a problem less with a person's body and more with the roles that guide gender. The author seeks to find a time where the roles are no longer holding sway to those who might want to transition.