

Supplemental Materials: Interview Protocol

This interview is about the intersectionality of race and gender identities. Intersectionality is the idea that having multiple minority identities can result in unique experiences navigating social systems and create unique experiences of prejudice and discrimination. In asking the following questions, we hope to explore the unique perspectives of trans people of color and identify areas for future research.

1. What does your [race] identity mean to you?
2. How important is your racial identity to you?
3. What does your [gender] identity mean to you?
4. How important is your gender identity to you?
5. Would you say either of those identities is more important to you than the other? How so?
6. Do you ever find these identities are in conflict with one another? How so?
7. How does your family affect how you've experienced your identities?
8. How do your experiences as [race] affect your experiences as [gender]?
9. How do your experiences as [gender] affect your experiences as [race]?
10. What challenges have you faced as both a racial and gender minority?
11. How would you say your minority gender and racial identities affect your day-to-day mental health and well-being?
12. What strengths do you have as a [race and gender]?
13. Recalling the definition from earlier, would you say you experience intersectionality of your minority racial and gender identities? How so?

Supplemental Materials: Selected Additional and Extended Quotes

To allow readers to further immerse themselves in the words of our participants, we have selected the following additional and extended quotes to supplement the themes and discussions of the main paper.

Creating and Recreating Identity

Grappling with Affirmation and Rejection from Family and Religion

When I came out and my immediate family...they were extremely supportive and they continue to be... Like, aunts and uncles and grandparents—that's where I felt resistance and even lost touch with certain people— “That's not okay...It's against God.” (Angel)

I think also ... I can't totally separate my race and ethnicity from that as well...., since one of the reasons that my parents expressed that they're not really behind this is that [my parents have] indicated they think that me being queer and trans is kind of something I've picked up by spending time around privileged white people who make up shit if they don't have real problems.... It's seen in a way as “Look at you, you've been Americanized in a bad way, this is why you picked up this way of thinking.” It doesn't really work well 'cause I- I don't really have the language ability to understand the context in which terms in Mandarin are used to refer to queer or trans people, and I don't really have any reference with those communities in China. (Skye)

Navigating white Transition Narratives

It's really important for me to share with people that I'm also two spirit, not just nonbinary, and not just gender fluid. Because when I first came to this country, I really had to be told what a girl was and what a boy was.... And I'll give you an example... So

this, this girl told me, “Well, what do you have between your legs?” And I was like, “What are you talking about?” It literally took ... 30 minutes for [my classmates] to figure out if I was a girl or a boy. And I was 14 and a half. That was the first time I had ever heard of those gender differences... I was very confused. (Wren)

I’m more sure of myself as a nonbinary person, I don’t need the validation from others anymore. Not as often. So, when I first realized I was nonbinary, I felt like I had to do extra ... I had to correct people [to] assert myself, assert dominance... There was a validation point it was about, I really needed validation all the time. Now it’s less necessary. (Lyn)

I guess I feel like I'm more and more figuring out how much I want to transition... and I'm still figuring that out. It's been on my mind a lot lately. And trying to figure out how to keep my family close, because I'm really close to them, and still accomplish what I want to do has been stressful. But all I can think of is giving it more time. (Bun)

Experiencing Discrimination and its Impacts on Wellness

Experiencing Interpersonal Discrimination, Invisibility, and Harm

I think [about dynamics I have been in where people assume that trans guys are bottoms or even Asians are bottoms[.] And then I've also had like, uncomfortable realizations where there were some trans women in my life who only go for trans men, and it ended up like feeling a certain type of way where I'm like, "Are they going for me because they assume trans guys or Asian trans guys bottom and they're tops?"... It's like there's some sort of weird racial sexual hierarchy where- I think I noticed it more easily in gay guy community where on apps they'd be like "no Blacks, no Asians, no fats, no femmes." And it's like white dudes are at the top of it who are cis, and then maybe Latinx, and like Black and Asian are at the bottom. (Kai)

I have had people discriminate openly against me, like in person, and things like that. I've had trouble with—not people doing it necessarily on purpose, but misgendering and things like that, because I feel like there is an assumption that AFAB Black people are automatically going to be more masculine, so I feel like... when I was starting transition, and sometimes now still... I guess it's going to be something that always exists, but—makes it more likely for me to be misgendered. (Troy)

Experiencing Identity Gatekeeping and Precariousness

I'm not a white Latinx or white Mexican and there's all these mestizos that are whiter than me. Right, still I'm still considered like very Indigenous within that community. And then when I go into the Indigenous community, I'm not Indigenous enough... That's the sad part of it. That's why - that's the intimate part. And in terms of social, I feel like it

does affect me, I mean just mentioning different communities [the Indigenous community and the trans community], how I feel like I don't fit into either one and then also navigating life in completely different communities outside of Mexico adds onto the complexity... It can definitely be an isolating experience and I've come to work through these feelings. (Lyn)

From the conversations that I've had with folks that have these, like, really strong opinions about the binary who are trans folks... this kind of binary has been pushed on them. And so, because that binary was pushed on them it's very unfair for them to see other people living in their true authenticity, and not being challenged. Because if they had done that, you know, let's say 10 years ago, they would get murdered, and so, for them, it is a sense, I think it's an envy, I think that's what it comes down to is like, "I didn't get to do that. So, you don't get to do that. Because I would have gotten murdered for being so fluid in my expression for gender." And I love my sisters, I love my trans women. And I think a lot of it comes from my sisters, who were in places where, yeah, if they came out, and they didn't have a full face of makeup on, if they didn't make sure that they don't have any stubble showing, and, you know, make sure that their clothes were fitting the right type of way. And they, you know, their tuck did not slip or any of those things, they had to do that and navigate that every single day, you know, and if they didn't, they would get murdered, you know, hurt, beat, you know, all of those kinds of things. And so it's really, really difficult for my sisters to see younger trans people, especially those that are not in the binary, walking in a way that would have got them killed, right. And so that's where a lot of that policing of that behavior comes from. It's

like, you know, girl, you can't look like that. Because you know, this, and this is gonna happen to you ... it's very, very complicated, it's really complicated. I'm still trying to work through my sisters with this. But a lot of it is internalized homophobia, homophobia and transphobia. And then it is the envy when it comes down to it. (Isaac)

Experiencing Structural Oppression

I would say employment has been hard because before I came out as nonbinary, the idea of being homeless just never crossed my mind, but I faced discrimination in the past from work and it was clear as day that it was discrimination. I was treated differently the minute I cut my hair and I started using more masculine clothes - and the work environment was hostile. So I've had a lot of really hard times with employment because I feel like I'll be discriminated against or I'll have a hostile environment again, so I've had to learn how to curve that potential... I'll do whatever I need to do in order to be able to have a job. It's a survival thing. (Lyn)

I'm looked at as a Black male; I have to look over my shoulder because we get pulled over just because. I can just be walking and I can get pulled over anytime just because I'm Black.... And then they'll find something to be wrong. Oh, my identity matched with this person. Or it can be, "Do you have your ID on you?" We get pulled over for little stuff like that, and they violate checking us because they think we don't know the law.... And then when we recite the law, they still don't care. They'll get pinned down to the ground and get into a holding cell for what? Because I'm walking down the street? Because you got my identity wrong? Then, I'm going to sue you. Because you touched me for no reason. You didn't have a warrant, you didn't have anything, you just touched

me. And that's another reason why they're mainly killing us because with people that have that education towards law, yeah, they're gonna probably kill me because they know they can get in trouble after. So that is stuff that I have to think about. So that's why when I go out, I usually go out during the day. If I need to go out during the night, I ask somebody to come pick me up. (Ezra)

There's not enough trans competent folks in mental health.... Like it's also with other specialists I see because I'm disabled and also deal with different health things that are diagnosed and different disabilities. So a lot of times I just had to go with the first person available, so like an old cis white dude... And then like with mental health, my gripes with that is a sliding scale for community health counselors, even the students, are like starting at \$80 if not over \$100 [per session]. I'm like, shit, I don't got money. (Kai)

Surviving Oppression and Compromising Authentic Self

Accepting Invisibility and Identity Concealment

It's just feeling the need to repress things a lot. Especially now, because I can't be on campus where everyone calls me by the correct name and pronouns. But here, I am constantly misgendered and misnamed. Or less so misnamed, because my parents use a nickname for me, and that's usually better. But if [my parents are] talking to their friends they'll call me my deadname. Just the need for secrecy, the need for not being able to explain anything in my life. (Rex)

Passing with Intersectional Marginalized Identities

I'm a lighter-skinned Mexican, so I've had the opportunity to – for lack of better words – white pass – and my brother is darker and I've seen this contrast of how you're perceived ... And I have experienced racism myself, but I see it more towards him just because he's darker. I guess maybe I have that privilege of being able to white pass... And then, as I was able to pass more, I decided I'm not very open about my transness. Just because I feel safer that way... I guess - what is the term? Stealth, I believe? Stealth... Because you can't tell if you look at me, but the early parts of my transition... that was difficult. (Angel)

Finding Intersectional Affirming Communities

I feel like I've found myself, obviously now, very much a fan of feminism, intersectionality, etc. It was the cause of some great deal of stress, just how sort of failed I felt by non-intersectional discussions of social issues. And that's probably the major way in which my identities manifested themselves before I was aware of them ... like, 'Why do I feel that this community that I should feel some kinship with is not doing it?' I don't know, again, white cishet feminism failed me quite a bit growing up, and it took me a

while before I was really able to find places that were truly intersectional and where I could feel heard. And so, it probably made it a little bit more difficult to be in the communities where I could explore some of my identities and my trauma because the places that had the language, the terminology to discuss what I was going through almost seemed toxic to me. And I wasn't really able to interact with them or get a thought out. (Rae)

My parents [say] that there's no one like me in the world but I know there's plenty of people like me, but there's not always acceptance by pan-Asian orgs for queer trans folks especially if you're also disabled because there are organizations that try to be inclusive and welcoming, but their gender is like Gender 101 ... It's more like very basic stuff like talking about gender roles, and I'm like, "Oh, this sounds like something for cis people." And then it's also like- yeah, it's just more like family or orgs that I feel like is clashing or with trans orgs that are hella white, I'm like, "Oh I need to get out of here." (Kai)

"One of our comrades was arrested for interrupting a pride parade to draw attention to the murders of Black trans women. And so, that's one thing that is hard to navigate in queer spaces, is the fact that many of them are so white dominated" (Jamie)

Embracing Identity Strengths

Holding Empathy and Understanding Intersectional Oppression

[Being a trans person of color is] like having a superpower. Because as you have these identities, you see the injustices of both sides. You see how queer, and trans people are harmed in the BIPOC community. And vice versa, how BIPOC people are constantly ignored and overlooked in the queer and trans community ... And seeing those like intersecting ideas, it's like when people work on a project, and it's like a film director and actors and makeup artists and costume designers and it's like you kind of have your hands dipped in all these worlds. And then someone's like, "okay, well, let's make a project," and then the film people are like, "I don't know any makeup artists or costume designers or actors, like what do I do?" and you know, like, all of these different [people] and like, "okay, well, let me pull you and let me pull you and let me pull you and then we pull you, let's make this project," which is the way that I see and navigate the world... It allows me, hopefully, [with] being open minded with other people's ideas and ideologies and concepts and understandings and helping decolonize and unlearning some of these things that have been kind of pushed onto people from elementary school.... Like, for example, these ideas of like queer trans people not being in history books, or people being mentioned in history books, but never talking about their queer and transness. So here are queer and trans kids thinking okay, here are all these cishet people in history. When you learn about them in your adulthood, you're like, "Yo, this person could have been an idol to me years ago, if they would have just talked about them being trans." ... And you're getting well-rounded views, especially when it comes to queer, trans BIPOC people in history, and in the news and the media. As you interact with them, you're able to connect

in those ways. So that's why I feel like it's a superpower in that way of like, being able to genuinely connect with people and having authentic relationships with them, and kind of being I guess, like feeding one side of them, but not all sides of them. (Wren)

I feel like I have a much better sense of empathy and I can better relate to other people and be more accepting of other people in a way ... Coming into both identities helped in learning and understanding bits of my history and culture, and then also learning about myself and my gender identity expanded my view of how I can view and relate to other people. (Jordan)

My main strength is basically helping people. I try to inspire people to see their true self if they couldn't figure it out, like how I started out I couldn't figure out what was wrong. So, every time I do a shot or something or I gotta go to an appointment, I'll go to people that I know that are strongly thinking about it. I'll do T-shot, I'll show my scars, my top surgery scars. I'll explain it. I'll explain my experience with surgery. I'll explain the experience, the hassle that I had to go through with the name change and the gender marker and all of that. I try to help them out as much as I can... And I try to tell people, it looks fun, it looks great, it looks easy when you see someone else doing it. But when you actually do it, it sucks. Telling that to people, like you know, if you really do it, you're gonna have mood swings. You're gonna have this and that. You're gonna be all over the place. (Ezra)

Finding Liberation

Experiencing Bodily Autonomy and Agency

Especially because my hair had been down to my waist, and I got a pixie cut that summer.... I came back during junior year and I was like, “No, I don't care anymore.” ... it was the first time I felt like I had control over my body, and owning something like that.... [And] the outfit that makes me feel the most powerful is when I can express all of them: my racial identities and my queer identities at once.... So I have a t-shirt that is from a Latinx, Afro-Latinx brand. And I can't remember what it says on it, but it's like large letters in Spanish. You know black, all black lines and jeans and Doc Martens. And I have a lot of piercings and a few tattoos, and it's like, when I can showcase all of that at once is when I feel powerful. Then I can take up space. (Jamie)

Living Fully and Authentically

I just want to live in a world that is okay that I don't have to advocate for myself ... but I feel the need to. I am somewhat of a campus community student leader, and I felt the need to do that specifically because of how white the trans community is... because your gender identity, to some extent, is how you present to the world, how others see you. [Gender identity is] just too important because it's too all-encompassing. I wish it was something that kind of didn't matter, but it does. (Rex)

I do want to make an emphasis on the way to combat the mental health issues that Black trans people experience is going to be solidarity, is going to be access to being surrounded by people that they identify with.... And I saw that, you know, and very specifically, I think for people in their workplace, like, that was where I got the relief,

moving from a place that just wasn't safe, because it didn't represent me, and it wasn't rewarding, so I didn't think I was doing anything worth it. So I think, really creating and holding these spaces for Black specifically, you know, for Black trans people... you know, not—I mean, this is a hard thing to say—not people of color, but for Black trans people. And this is a space for Black people, because, you know, my experience as a Black person, versus, you know, my Latinx siblings, like, their experience is not the same, it's really not. And so we need to have those sacred spaces where we can really affirm each other. And, you know, and so I think that would be really the big thing that would allow for healing when it comes to intersectionalities around gender and race.

(Isaac)