

The banner features a textured background of purple and blue. On the right side, there is a stylized profile of a person's head and shoulders, colored in shades of pink and purple. The text "6th Annual Transgender Spectrum Conference 2019" is written in a blue, serif font, centered on the left side of the banner.

# 6th Annual Transgender Spectrum Conference 2019

## Expectations for Attendees and Presenters

People come to the conference to learn about gender. Gender cannot be entirely separated from race, religion, ability, class, ethnicity or nationality. Be sensitive to the diversity of people's gender experiences and try to appreciate what you learn about the complexity of people's gender experiences.

Gender and sex are different. The phrase "assigned sex at birth" is a term used to refer to whether or not a person was given a male or female sex marker when they were born. Intersex is also a sex marker, but it is not used for legal records in the United States.

Gender is complex and personal. Gender and sex may not correspond. At this conference we examine the ways gender is a spectrum. We also recognize the way our culture privileges a binary system. At this conference we aim to include all gender expressions, especially those that do not fit neatly into the man/woman or boy/girl binary.

The relationship between gender and sexuality is complex. One should not assume that when a person transitions gender, that their feelings of attraction for one gender or another will change too. This conference avoids heteronormative expectations. *Heteronormative* is a word used to convey the cultural idea that heterosexuality is expected, normal and that we organize around heterosexual pairings.

*Sexism*, a word that seems to be associated with sex, is actually about gender. Sexism is the way masculinity is seen as more worthy, valuable and powerful than femininity. At this conference we try to be aware of the way this plays out in people's daily lives. Make sure people on the feminine end of the gender spectrum are not dismissed, overlooked or treated as less important.

Mistakes will happen when people are learning. Try to offer polite corrections and try not to take offense when people make mistakes.

Respect people's opinions, beliefs, experiences, and differing points of view.

Respect everyone's identity and background, including pronouns and names. When you see a person's pronoun on their name tag, use that pronoun. If you do not see a pronoun listed ask people you meet what pronouns they use.

Do not assume anyone's gender identity or sexual orientation.

Respect everyone's physical and emotional limitations. Check in with others before discussing topics that may be triggering (e.g. sexual abuse, physical violence or encounters with police), and please use trigger warning(s) during presentations and events.

Be aware of your prejudices and privileges along with the space you take up during the conference.

Be yourself. The Transgender Spectrum Conference aims to provide a relaxed atmosphere that recognizes the importance of hearing about people's lived experiences.

Recognize that the Transgender Spectrum Conference is a work in progress. Feedback from participants is important and we take all suggestions into consideration for future planning. Please complete the evaluation at the end of each session and at the end of the conference.

## **Event Space**

The Transgender Spectrum Conference provides a dedicated room for people who self-identify as trans-expansive. Please respect this reserved space and only enter if you identify as trans-expansive.

The conference attempts to make people comfortable using public bathrooms, so you will see signage for "gender neutral restrooms". Please avoid using urinals and instead opt for the stall.

Washington University offers a "Serenity Room" for meditation/prayer/reflection. Please refrain from talking in the room and be aware that the space is open to everyone at the university, not just people attending the conference.

The exhibit area is a space for organizations to share information. We do not allow people to conduct research at the conference. Exhibitors may share information about their projects and recruit volunteers. Make sure your IRB approval forms are available for participants to review.

## **Guidelines for Presenters**

We asked that academic papers state the limits of their research and that academics try to present their material in ways everyone can understand. Researchers should state their positionality (i.e. if you identify as cisgender, say so).

Research that includes human subjects should explain IRB approval by providing the IRB information on a slide or on a handout.

Presenters must honor the time limits of their presentation slot. If your moderator indicates that time is up, please wrap up your presentation.

Additional Information for presenters: van Anders, S. M., Galupo, M. P., Irwin, J., Twist, M. L. C., & Reynolds, C. J. (2019). Talking about transgender experiences, identities, and existences at conferences. Link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iHodSA16oP0itTjZPkB5tslBjMHOiMdy9lt9zmTPKPs/edit?usp=sharing>

And finally--HAVE FUN!