

BG Research Online

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ResearchHER – Women In Academia Support Network. Book Submission form.

- All entries must be submitted no later than 12th December.
- Those selected for publication will be notified in early January. Dates TBC with publisher.
- On submission of final edited chapter authors to be paid £50 honorarium
- Those selected for publication to indicate which school district or location they would nominate to receive free copies of the book.

Name	Lyndsay Muir
Age	55
Ethnicity: Description/free text *We don't want to define your ethnicity so please tell us how you describe yourself.	White, British
Gender and sexuality: Description/free text. * We don't want to define your gender or sexuality so please tell us how you describe yourself.	Female, Bisexual
Geographical location and current institution.	Lincoln, UK, Bishop Grosseteste University
Personal Bio: What makes you diverse? Information about your background. 250 words	I am a qualified teacher, a university based teacher educator, researcher and drama specialist. I'm also a wife, parent and sister. I transitioned later in life, without changing employment, without moving home and with the staunch, enlightened and principled 'wrap around' support of my professional colleagues. I have been gifted with the unflinching, generous affirmation of my loved ones, together with many lifelong and more recent friends, who have walked alongside me on this journey. I am painfully aware of how fortunate I am, yet it would be wrong to imply that it has been easy for anyone, least of all me. It has taken many moons to peel away years of denial and self-loathing, together with the impact of unnecessary, unjustified and unacceptable acts of unkindness (to put it mildly). However, rather than conform to pre-determined and media sanctioned (often distorted, frequently sensationalised) narratives, I embrace the challenges and complexity of gender diversity and non-conformity as enrichment and gift.

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<p>Interesting / fun fact about you. Any interesting fact about you – doesn't need to be research related. 100 words</p>	<p>I fulfilled a life-time ambition to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe appearing (albeit briefly!) as a member of the Adam World Choir digital chorus in the National Theatre Scotland's award winning, Fringe First production of Adam at the Traverse Theatre, August 2018. During the global pandemic, the production was adapted for screen and filmed as part of the BBC 'Lights up' (a virtual theatre festival during lockdown), and broadcast on BBC TV – so unexpectedly (and fleetingly!) ending up on the telly!</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000t3h1/lights-up-adam</p> <p>Adam – written and adapted by Frances Poet and directed by Cora Bissett has just been awarded a Scottish BAFTA (Nov 2021)</p>
<p>Research: What do you research? How/why did you become a researcher? 250 words</p>	<p>My research is at the intersection of teacher education, trans studies and drama (or 'applied drama'). I achieved my Master's (Drama in Education) in 1994 and whilst my comparative study on Bertolt Brecht and Dorothy Heathcote was published under the title 'New Beginnings' in 1996, I took a long and circuitous route back towards research, only finally, after much meandering, registering for my PhD in professional practice at the University of Manchester in 2015. I have always had 'one foot' in education, having qualified as a secondary drama teacher in 1990, so it made sense for me, to research my more recent (and current) professional practice, as a Teacher Educator, supporting, I hope, new generations of secondary drama specialists, in their professional transitions. So it is that I have taken notions, insights and experiences of transitioning from the academic field of Trans Studies and used those as a 'trans lens' through which to develop and analyse creative and critical, drama informed practices to support and enhance the transitioning processes of trainee teachers towards their professional identities as educators. I've given this the title 'A Teacher's Progress – passing as a professional'.</p> <p>Rather than positioning myself or other gender diverse people as we have been, historically, as problematic, burdensome and delusional, instead I offer a trans lens as a potential gift and tentative contribution to the research of new knowledge. As Kate Bornstein once stated, everyone has to work at being themselves, 'transgendered people are probably more aware of doing the work, that's all' (Bornstein, 1995, p. 66)</p>
<p>Interesting / fun fact about your research. 100 words</p>	<p>Part way through my PhD research I did a TEDx talk entitled 'Tea with Trans: what's on (and off) the menu' (2017)</p> <p>https://www.ted.com/talks/lyndsay_muir_tea_with_trans_what_s_on_and_off_the_menu</p> <p>There's a particularly powerful extract with the Adam World Choir, singing at the end; I'm grateful to all the individual choir members who were able to give their consent for this to be used at the end of my talk, and for NTS (National Theatre Scotland) enabling this to be done – a global undertaking, and across countries where some people put themselves at risk, for agreeing and participating.</p>

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<p>Research activity: Provide a short activity which would be a research question, a task, game, experiment etc. Max 250 words</p>	<p>Best done with a trusted person but could be done alone. Think about all that you are, all that you do. Make a list. Review the list – what do you feel most comfortable with? When are you, most ‘you’? Bring to mind a moment when you first felt that. Give yourself two minutes (kitchen timer ideal!): describe the detail, the specifics, set the scene of the exact moment, so that someone else could ‘get the picture’ from you. (If someone is listening, do just that, listen, no interruptions). Swap roles. Now ask, if you had to distil (no gin involved, but does mean concentrate and intensify!) that moment down to its core essentials. It is like a frozen image – only allow yourself a sound, a word or phrase and one gesture, if it adds significance. Now ask these questions of that (auto-ethnographic; quasi fictional) moment: What is happening? Why What’s at stake? Where did you/they learn it from? Is this how life should/should not be?</p> <p>These questions are borrowed from Dorothy Heathcote’s 5 layers of meaning (Gillham, 1988) (Muir, 1996) (Davis, 2014)</p> <p>Consider (or discuss with trusted person) what other moments link with this and what map of your ‘progress’ through a personal/professional life starts to emerge and how you have/are negotiating that landscape.</p>
<p>School location / district nominated to receive a free book for their school library/libraries. *Please confirm country and local area.</p>	<p>Lincoln, Lincolnshire, UK ? I’m slightly confused about what to put here ?...maybe copies for Bishop Grosseteste University Library, where I work – accessed by many trainee teachers, primary and secondary as well as usual wider university community, of course)</p>