

Rebecca Carbery  
Rebecca.helenahannah.carbery@aau.at

## **Beyond binary gender: Self-representation by non-binary trans\* people through new digital media**

My research deals with ways in which non-binary trans\* and intersex people portray themselves in new digital media. Binary trans\* people have seen increased visibility in the media recently, with the rise of actor Laverne Cox via the popular Netflix series *Orange is the New Black* and the public transition of trans woman Caitlyn Jenner. However, non-binary genders are still rarely mentioned. It is therefore important to look into how non-binary people are using new digital media to create their own online space and look beyond two genders. Intersex issues are also slowly becoming more visible but focus has been mainly on medical issues.

Specific examples are taken from YouTube video blogs (vlogs) and online blogs. I look at the concept of non-binary identities, as well as other more bodily issues such as gender dysphoria, whether to physically transition, hormones, pronouns etc. that are discussed in the blogs and vlogs.

I ask how the personal nature of new digital media forms allows non-binary trans\* people to convey their complicated experiences of sex and gender to the outside world and create a conceptual space for their identities. What are the main topics discussed in their blogs/vlogs? (How) is this opening up a previously binary-focussed discourse?