

Gender Detox: Gender-Affirming Postgenderism

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Introduction

Problem: Postgenderism Endangers Binary Trans People

For some trans binary people, being in a distinct gender role allows them to experience the least distress and best chance to flourish. In living such roles, many of these individuals undergo extensive medical treatments and procedures, bear harsh social disapproval, seek asylum in other countries, and live under the constant threat of injury or death. If gender roles were destroyed, then everything these individuals fought for would be for naught, as expressed in the argument below.

Endangerment Argument

- P1.** If gender roles are abolished, then the existence of transgender people, or any gendered people, would be conceptually impossible.
 - P2.** If the existence of transgender people would be conceptually impossible, then the wellbeing of some people would be severely harmed.
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- C.** If gender roles are abolished, then the wellbeing of some people would be severely harmed.

Thesis

We can maintain gender as a meaningful social construct *and* detoxify it of its harmful trappings, and thus achieve the goals of postgenderism without making the existence of gendered people conceptually impossible.

Strategy

Deny P1. Keep the genders, destroy the roles.

Solution: Detox Gender

Detox Argument

- P1.** If we can maintain gender as a social construct and detoxify it of its harmful trappings, then we can achieve the goals of postgenderism without making the existence of gendered people conceptually impossible.
- P2.** We can maintain gender as a social construct and detoxify it of its harmful trappings.
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- C.** We can achieve the goals of postgenderism without making the existence of gendered people conceptually impossible.

Support for P2

There is a class of social constructs that (in their ideal forms) we can, and should, model gender on: fandoms. In ideal cases, these social constructs are inclusive and do not violently impose norms.

- Bad case: aesthetic fandoms
- Good case: sports fandoms

Problems

1. Semantic Nihilism: radical inclusivity entails semantic nihilism
2. Bad Actors: radical inclusivity invites unscrupulous and opportunistic individuals to exploit gender concepts at the expense of others for their own benefit, e.g. Ted Bundy Case

Suppose Ted Bundy, a serial killer who exclusively murdered women, self-identified as a woman.

Replies to Problems

1. Trends and patterns shall remain
2. The bad actors problem exists for any other internal experience, e.g. truthfulness regarding one's feelings or thoughts. Skepticism about internal gender experience is arbitrary and transphobic.