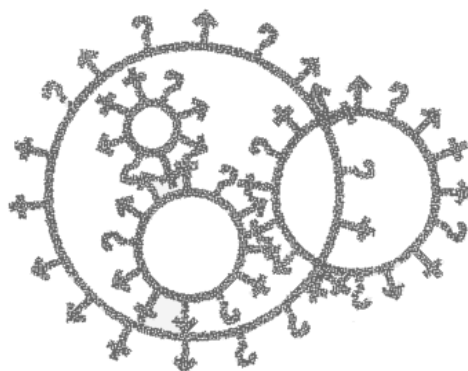


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We're on the web:
[www.forge-forward.org/
TAN](http://www.forge-forward.org/TAN)



more comprehensive history of transsexualism in the last 60 years?

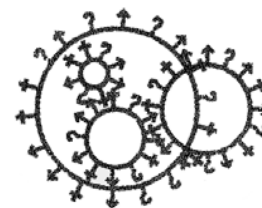
TRANSITIONING IN LATER LIFE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *How is psychological adjustment for both the family and self when transitioning later in life?*
- ◆ *Will I be able to pass?*
- ◆ *Will my voice change?*
- ◆ *Will I grow/shrink?*
- ◆ *For a late-transitioning FTM, does coming off estrogen increase the risk I'll get Alzheimer's Disease?*

WORK QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *Will I be able to get a job?*
- ◆ *Will I get fired mid-job if I transition later in life?*
- ◆ *Will I get harassed on the job?*
- ◆ *Will my company's health insurance cover my needs? Hormones? Surgery?*
- ◆ *Will retirement benefits be affected by transitioning?*
- ◆ *How do I get a new job being both older and trans (i.e., two strikes against me)?*
- ◆ *Will I lose everything if I work in a place 20 years and transition?*
- ◆ *How do older cross-dressers do that on the job?*

Latest revision 2/9/2003



Transgender Aging Research Agenda: The Raw Questions

In 2002, the Transgender Aging Network (TAN) began to develop a comprehensive research agenda related to transgender aging issues.

The purpose of this agenda is several-fold:

- ◆ To give researchers, policymakers, funders and other interested parties guidance on what topics they could usefully focus their work.
- ◆ To articulate what the trans+/SOFFA (significant others, friends, family, and allies) communities feel WE need and want to know about growing older transgendered/SOFFA.
- ◆ To give TAN itself a basis upon which to design its research, activities, services, and priorities.

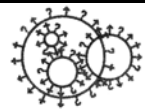
This Transgender Aging Research Agenda (TARA) is a dynamic document, continually open to new additions and serving as the basis for diverse analyses and reports. In this, its most basic version ("The Raw Questions"), the TARA is simply a categorized listing of the questions trans+/SOFFAs of all ages have asked in response to this open-ended question: "What do you want to know about growing older transgendered/SOFFA?" Because this question is purposefully broad, many of the questions asked do not require academic-type research studies. However, they do reflect the questions trans/SOFFA individuals are struggling to get answers to.

This initial version of TARA was developed out of a workshop entitled, "Trans Aging: What Do We Need to Know," held at the 2002 True Spirit Conference (TSC), in Washington, D.C., February 16, 2002. TSC is predominately attended by individuals on the FTM spectrum and SOFFAs. Approximately 30 individuals participated in the workshop. The workshop leader (Loree Cook-Daniels) discussed TAN and the workshop goals, had participants brainstorm about what we DO know about trans aging, and then had the participants brainstorm the areas in which we have questions. Participants then passed around both previously-prepared topic sheets and topic sheets prepared onsite to reflect additional topics generated during the brainstorming. Participants were asked to add any questions they had on each topic as that topic sheet was passed to them. When the topic sheets were collected, they were read aloud so that everyone could hear what others had asked and make any additions that occurred to them as they heard others' questions.

A NOTE ABOUT INCLUSION AND SCOPE: *TAN takes a very inclusive stance to transgender aging issues. We use "transgender" in its fullest definition, including those on both the MTF and FTM spectrum and SOFFAs (significant others, friends, family and allies). For us the transgender "spectrum" includes, at one "pole", those who identify as formerly transsexual (i.e., post-transition) through those who, at the other "pole," identify as butch, sissy, or in some other way as living in violation of rigid gender roles. In between those poles are those currently labeled transsexual (post-surgical, pre-*

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surgical, non-surgical), no hormone transsexuals or transgendered persons, cross-dressers, androgynes, and all other identities people may choose for themselves related to their gender status, expression, medical (non)treatment decisions, or identity. SOFFAs are included regardless of the individual SOFFA's gender identity. We believe the transphobia, violence, discrimination, economic challenges, ignorance, and other challenges facing transgender persons in our society are also felt by those who are linked to transgender persons through family or partnership status, friendship, professional ties, etc.

We define "aging" as what is happening to every person every day. *The issues of ageism (defined in this instance as stereotyping, often but not always negatively, persons because they are "old") affect persons of every age. In addition, the issues we typically associate with old people -- disability, health concerns, isolation, low income, etc. -- are not, in fact, issues that affect only elders. Finally, "young" people may make life decisions based on their knowledge or perception of what those decisions will mean to them and their SOFFAs 20, 40, 60 or 80 years down the road. Although we recognize that there are generational, physical, legal, and other differences among people of various ages, we hold that what is typically considered an "aging" issue may actually be (or should be!) of direct concern to individuals of all ages.*

In summary, we encourage the assumption that TAN will answer any question that begins, "Do you include...?" with a "yes."

The raw questions by category:

ETHNICITY/RACE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *Do older trans persons of different ethnicities lose their place in ethnic and trans communities focused on the*

young?

- ◆ *Will ANY community honor my elder status?*
- ◆ *How do all of the other question categories specifically affect us due to ethnicity or race?*
- ◆ *Will I be "seen"? (Trans people are expected to be both young and white.)*

FAMILY QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *My SO is 20 years my senior. What if she can no longer take care of herself? What happens if I have to work? Because we do not have a legal marriage, would my visitation rights to her be affected?*
- ◆ *Whether to be "out" to everyone in extended family -- to in-laws, etc. How and when (and why) to tell? How to describe "pre-trans" history?*
- ◆ *Legal inheritance issues.*
- ◆ *As my parents become senile, will they know who I am? How will my status with my siblings be affected?*
- ◆ *How will my family deal with my "other gender" status?*

FRIENDSHIP/SOCIAL CIRCLE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *What group will I belong to? Hetero, lesbian, queer...?*
- ◆ *What happens if my transness suddenly gets revealed?*
- ◆ *How do I honor my past as a female, but a male later in life?*

transphobia?

- ◆ *Is the mortality rate increased due to hate crimes?*
- ◆ *Alternative spirituality formation [Editor's note: I don't understand well enough what the questioner intended to reframe this as a question.]*

RETIREMENT QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *How does not being able to or choosing not to legally marry affect benefits (such as pensions)?*
- ◆ *Do Social Security benefits ever get lost in the name/gender change?*
- ◆ *If I move to a new place, should I come out? How?*
- ◆ *Can I find a trans-friendly place to live?*

SEXUALITY QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *Where/how do I find sex partners as I get older? What personals cater to us? What bars?*
- ◆ *How do I handle sexuality given issues of self-image, body-image?*
- ◆ *How can I better connect my mind and my body?*
- ◆ *How do I use body parts that are both dysphoric and aging?*
- ◆ *How do I find older, trans-aware potential partners?*
- ◆ *Will I still love my body when I get old?*
- ◆ *When I age, will I be more drawn to being "straight" out of convenience?*

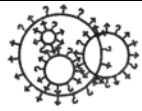
- ◆ *Where do I find access to relevant safer sex information?*
- ◆ *What are sexologists doing to prepare for us?*

SURGERY QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *How is recovery time affected when folks have trans-related surgery later in life?*
- ◆ *Will people be shocked to find I don't have a phallus, but appear male?*
- ◆ *How is long-term recuperation affected by physical health?*
- ◆ *How do you handle intake questions?*
- ◆ *Does the elasticity of the skin make for different results when older people have surgery?*
- ◆ *Should I have surgery if I'm close to death (i.e., how to weigh five years of enjoying my body versus money for the kids)?*

TRANS HISTORY QUESTIONS:

- ◆ *Has anyone done this before me?*
- ◆ *How can we bring all this information together in an easy-to-access resource?*
- ◆ *How do non-transitioning and/or genderqueer folks stay visible/viable in our communal history?*
- ◆ *Who will write our history?*
- ◆ *How can you find people who are now living as trans elders and talk to them about their lives and/or our potential future?*
- ◆ *Where can we find/how can we create a*



- ◆ How will long term care insurance help or make more difficult living arrangements that are comfortable for a trans person?
 - ◆ Can/have trans people invested in long term care insurance to try to stay in their homes?
 - ◆ Are there caregivers who know about trans people/issues?
 - ◆ Would it be possible for a group of trans elders to buy, cooperatively, a house that they can live in for the rest of their lives? Could one apply long term care insurance to its purchase? What about a similar situation with a group of trans/queer elders going in together to a larger nursing home or retirement home, etc.?
 - ◆ Can I find a trans-friendly place to live?
- dementia, Parkinson's, and other illnesses such as cardiac problems, cancer, etc.?
 - ◆ Are there benefits gained through the experience of being trans that help in adjusting to changes in lifespan development?
 - ◆ What do we do about elders with regard to medical payments when we have elders who are trans and have HIV/AIDS?

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS:

- ◆ How have no-hormone, no-op trans guys dealt with perceptions, be they not passing or passing for really young, as they get older?
- ◆ What will happen to me if I get dementia and regress in my memory to my pre-transition name and/or gender? How will others react?

MENTAL HEALTH QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What happens in situations where a state doesn't allow a Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) to cover mental health care, including treatment of dementia?
- ◆ What psychiatric services are available to older trans people?
- ◆ What are the effects of hormone use in combination with medicine for mental health issues?
- ◆ Will there be other transpeople, and could I start a trans group?
- ◆ What about the increase in depression among elders?
- ◆ What about a possible increase in mental health problems related to

MORTALITY QUESTIONS:

- ◆ How does the average age of death of trans people compare with that of non-trans people?
- ◆ Is the mortality rate of trans people affected by trans issues such as hormonal use?
- ◆ Is there an increased mortality rate for trans people due to health care workers' attitudes, limited access to health care for trans folks, lack of insurance coverage, etc.?
- ◆ Are elder trans people more lonely than non-trans elders and hence attempt or complete suicide more?
- ◆ Do trans people fear what will happen to them after death due to internalized

- ◆ What social networks will be in place as we age?
 - ◆ I fear that younger generations will not respect/honor how difficult it was to come out when I did (assuming it gets easier, that things change).
 - ◆ How do you meet people as an adult when you no longer have access to broad groups of people such as in college, at work, etc.?
 - ◆ How do youth issues interface on a social/political level with elder issues?
- All of the above, what if I am poor and have to live in subsidized elderly housing, nursing homes, with family?
 - ◆ Feeling like always being around youth. [Editor's note: I do not understand what this person meant well enough to reframe this as a question.]

HEALTH QUESTIONS: [note that hormone-related questions also have their own category]

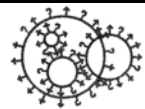
- ◆ Does menopause affect surgery, hormones, etc.?
- ◆ Do hormones affect cancer risk, the growth of cancer, or its treatment?
- ◆ Can one have breast cancer after chest surgery?
- ◆ Do hormones affect liver problems?
- ◆ Does binding before chest surgery cause problems for surgery?
- ◆ How can transmen be screened for breast cancer without having to necessarily "come out" to a doctor?
- ◆ What are the long-term effects of hormone use on osteoporosis, liver function, and cholesterol levels?
- ◆ When/how often should an MTF have breast cancer screenings?
- ◆ What are the long-term risks/complications for FTMs who decide not to have a hysterectomy?

**HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS/
PERSONNEL QUESTIONS** (including nursing homes):

- ◆ Will I have access to care if I'm low-income?

GENDERQUEER QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What do non-transitioning/genderqueer folks who get older do to stay visible?
- ◆ What happens when "youth" culture gets old?
- ◆ Will I have a community later? Will I be accepted?
- ◆ Will there be a third box on all those forms I fill out to include my gender identity?
- ◆ How do I deal with assumptions made about my gender based on my looks?
- ◆ Will it get more difficult over the years?
- ◆ How can elder genderqueer people find one another?
- ◆ How can genderqueers, low/no hormone folks get proper and respectful health care?
- ◆ How do non-transitioning and/or genderqueer folks stay visible/viable in our later years?



- ◆ How can genderqueers, low/no hormone folks get proper and respectful health care?
- ◆ How can we get respectful and knowledgeable health care staff? (Specific concern: nurses assisting with going to the bathroom/bathing.)
- ◆ Are treatment decisions affected by someone being TG or TS, given the disrespect already accorded the elderly?
- ◆ What will happen to pre-/non-op transsexuals in hospitals, nursing homes, and other situations that would entail shared rooms, bathrooms, etc.?
- ◆ Will long term health insurance coverage provide adequate insurance, especially for trans people?
- ◆ Can I refuse treatment from a non-trans-friendly nurse/doctor/aide?
- ◆ How will medical hospitals with a religious affiliation treat a trans patient?
- ◆ How do I get medical insurance without lying?
- ◆ How do we train medical professionals to be knowledgeable and respectful?
- ◆ How do we deal with emergency medical personnel?
- ◆ on whether you have a usual dose or a low dose? What happens if you stop hormones after years of use?
- ◆ What is the affect of starting and stopping testosterone?
- ◆ What happens to the body when there are NO hormones (either "male" or "female") naturally occurring?
- ◆ What are the long-term effects of hormone use on osteoporosis, liver function, and cholesterol levels?
- ◆ Does use of testosterone increase the risk of heart and other problems to the non-trans male level?
- ◆ Should those taking testosterone also take calcium?
- ◆ What's the health/aging *prevention* value of testosterone versus estrogen?
- ◆ Concerning osteoporosis: What are the long-term effects of testosterone on osteoporosis? What if you take a smaller than usual dose? What if you have to stop taking testosterone for any reason?
- ◆ If I don't have a hysterectomy, how will my female organs be affected by use of testosterone?
- ◆ What are the health problems that might necessitate stopping hormone treatments?

HORMONE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Do hormones affect cancer risk, the growth of cancer, or its treatment?
- ◆ Do hormones affect liver problems?
- ◆ What are the long-term effects of hormones? Are there differences based
- ◆ What are the effects of hormone use in combination with medications for mental health issues?
- ◆ Should I adjust my testosterone dosage downward as I age?

- ◆ Should I adjust my estrogen dosage upward or downward as I age?
- ◆ Does coming off estrogen increase a trans person's risk of Alzheimer's Disease?
- ◆ arrangement), paid taxes, etc. in years?
- ◆ Can one's access to Social Security be compromised if one's legal gender is different from that on a government file? How does the application process work in such cases?

LEGAL QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Are marriages involving trans people legal?
- ◆ Are wills involving trans people legal?
- ◆ How is custody of children affected by one or more parents being trans?
- ◆ How should Durable Powers of Attorney (DPOA) involving one or more trans people be drafted? Do trans people have any difficulty getting DPOAs honored?
- ◆ What happens when legal documents (wills, DPOAs, etc.) use a trans person's previous name/gender designation?
- ◆ What happens in situations where a state doesn't allow a DPOA to cover mental health care, including treatment of dementia?
- ◆ When trans people have children, is the child's access to Social Security benefits in case of one parent's death ever compromised?
- ◆ Is there a bias against trans people in arrests and/or sentencing?
- ◆ What happens to trans people who are arrested and jailed, given such institutions' sex segregation practices?
- ◆ I am executor of my parent's estate. Will my trans status affect that?
- ◆ Can one get Social Security if one hasn't had a job per se (been self-employed or had spotty work or lived in a communal

LEISURE PURSUITS QUESTIONS:

- ◆ How do I find accepting communities in such venues as church groups and activity clubs?
- ◆ How do we actively create our own such activities?
- ◆ Will I *have* a club when I'm older?
- ◆ Will I *have* a sports team when I'm older?
- ◆ Will I have comfortable access to a bar when I'm older?
- ◆ Will I be accepted in heavily gendered spaces?
- ◆ Will there be other transpeople, and could I start a trans group? (Editor's note: originally listed under "mental health" issues)

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What kind of living arrangements will I have access to if I'm low-income?
- ◆ Will assisted living facilities take me as a trans person?
- ◆ Who will take care of me? I have no children.