

# trans astors

[TRANCESTORS, n.]

transestas

The countless persons  
from whom today's  
trans communities  
are descended.

A NON

BINARY

HISTORY

ZINE

originally, this zine was called 'respect ur elders'. The n. jon. came up with the pun 'transcestors' and like, how could we not call it that? I do wanna explain the reasoning behind 'respect ur elders', tho.

'elder', to me, doesn't mean my blood or genetic anastors. It means The Grays That Came Before.

It means the people who paved the way to where we are now.

Every nonbinary person who recognises their own truth, however loudly or quietly, is respecting their elders. Making me most of the world they created.

I wanna think our transcestors would be proud of us.

This zine is, in part, a thank you to the m. We must recognise & appreciate our own part to move forwards.

This is only a small slice of the earth's gender variant history, but it is something.

Thank u, transcestors.

We love u.



NON BINARY



PEOPLE  
ARE

HISTORY .

# ANCIENT HISTORY?

Jewish  
Gender  
Identities

Non-binary isn't new. At least, not in the way people seem to think it is. The Torah defined 2 genders - <sup>male</sup> zachar & <sup>female</sup> nekevah - but in later Jewish law codes & rabbinical writings, spanning 1st - 16th centuries CE, 4 more genders are defined. ANDROGYNOS, TUMTUM, AY'LOMIT, SARIS. Combined, there are HUNDREDS OF REFERENCES to these genders in the texts (MISHNAH, MIDRASH, TALMUD etc). More than a passing reference - it's an understanding of

How those genders interact with society

Ensuring religious inclusion

Appreciating the gift of a new perspective of Jewish relationships with the world, each other, & religion.

We're not an abomination - we represent an opportunity for greater understanding.

I, and other non-binary Jewish people, identify with the people represented in those texts. In a way, they're our ELDERS. But they're also not. 'Non-binary' as a phrase is a reaction to an exclusionary social structure. The people I'm describing were, a millennium ago, ~~was~~ enshrined in their difference. Upheld. The gender binary is colonial, Christian, & white. can't associate the tumtum & androgynos. The ay'lonit and the sars, with the rejection of a binary they were never defined by. The rejection

ANDROGYNOS  
PRIDE

I can associate them with hope.

Hope for self-definition describing my relationship with MY SELF, not with a binary we never asked for.

TUMTUM  
PRIDE



"He is  
a created  
being of her  
own"

- Rabbi  
Yose, on  
androgynous  
genders





# the Institute of Sex Research

It was a dark day for Queer history when 20,000 books and journals were burned by the Nazi's during their government censorship program in May 1933. As well as this, 5000 images were burnt.

The ISS was so important to Berlin's Queer community.

- marriage ≠ sex counselling
- safe sex education
- access to contraception
- safe abortions
- treatment of STDs
- employment for trans people.

The 'Institut für Sexualwissenschaft' (ISS) was set up in 1919 by a gay Jewish man, Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935). He was an early gay liberation activist, who fought for the end of criminalised gay sex (in Germany). He was one of the first to perform sex reassignment surgery. The ISS were 'dangerous' to the Nazi's because of the amount of education they provided.

EDUCATION

EMPOWERMENT



# THOMASINE HALL

KIT HEYAM



~ a non-binary person in the early 17th century

NEWCASTLE

Thomas or Thomasine Hall was put on trial in Jamestown, Virginia, in March 1629. The trial was for 'fornication' but quickly started to focus on Hall's gender. The court records refer to them as both 'he' and 'shee'. When asked their



LONDON

"I AM BOTH MAN AND WOEMAN"

Court records refer to them as both 'he' and 'shee'. When asked their

A genital investigation was carried out and Hall was asked to describe their own body, but that section of the court records is mysteriously missing. This makes Hall a rare,

beautiful, affirming example of a non-binary person who can't be retroactively assigned a binary gender. All we have is:

- they lived as Thomas at some times and as Thomasine at other times
- we don't know what gender they were assigned at birth
- their articulation of their own non-binary experience

The court sentenced Hall to wear a mixture of male- and female-coded clothing at all times: a validation of non-binary-ness! but visibly stigmatising and stifling their fluidity of expression.

But Hall remains an example of someone amazing: someone in the 1600s who unambiguously articulated their non-binary experience.

The validity of our non-binary identities today is not dependent on

their historicity - but we still deserve the deep thrill of knowing that we can see ourselves in the past and feeling a sense of community across time

PLYMOUTH

CLAUDE CAHUN

WAS A

JEWISH

NON-BINARY

SURREALIST

ARTIST

WHO

WROTE

ABOUT

BEING



THIRD

GENDER



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EDUCATION

EMPOWERMENT

WHY DO WE  
NEED HISTORY ?

we need  
history  
because

We need to  
see ourselves

we need  
to

feel connected



"All enby people have to have a degree in linguistics just to get by"

'Gender' - from the Greek for  
kind / category / label

## Pronouns

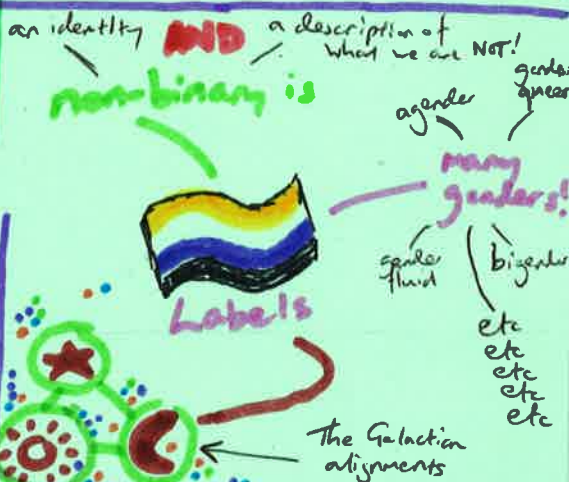


as old as singular  
'you'

→ Same verb agreement  
'You ARE the one who  
IS wrong about this!'

they or it?  
who what  
someone something

ze/hir  
xe  
Lords & others!  
xey/xen  
e  
at IIII ae



son/daughter? waiter/waitress!??  
English is still broken!  
Lord/Lord!?? aunt/aunt!??

So are other languages

✓ **Italian** ✗  
Hardly uses pronouns!  
-o/-a adjectives

# CREDITS

Leo - they/ze

Luna - they/them

Quinn - they/them

Kit - they/them

Ben - he/him

Nicky - she/they

Big thanks to:

