

4. Género e sexualidades

OC - (23167) - BETWEEN THE BINARY: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON GENDER IDENTITY EXPERIENCES IN ITALIAN CIS, TRANSGENDER, AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE

Chiara Fusco (Italy)¹; Fabio Bianco Madau (Italy)¹; Laura Gorla (Italy)¹; Luca Rollè (Italy)²; Maria Noemi Paradiso (Italy)²; Fabrizio Santoniccolo (Italy)²; Tommaso Trombetta (Italy)²; Alessandra Santona (Italy)¹

1 - University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy; 2 - University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Considering gender identity as a direct fallout of biological sex is defined as *gender binarism*, allowing only two mutually exclusive genders to exist (Scandurra et al., 2016; Meyerowitz, 2003; De Leo, 2021). However, people tend to experience gender identity in a much less binary way than traditionally expected (Joel et al., 2013). In this direction, the present mixed-method study aimed to employ a multiple gender identity identification model for understanding gender identity-related experiences within the Italian context in a group of cisgender, transgender, and gender-diverse people.

We administered an online questionnaire to 305 participants living in Italy. Respondents were divided into two groups: young adults (18 – 27 years old) and adults (28 – 60+ years old). The questionnaire comprised two sections. The first part collected quantitative data through the *Multi-Gender Identity Questionnaire* (Multi-GIQ). The second section aimed to collect qualitative data through two open-ended questions on the perception of gender identity social models and one's own gender identity and personal life experiences.

The study's results align with and add to previous literature. We found that transgender and gender-diverse people were more represented among the younger group and reported a more fluid gender identity and expression. More than cisgender men, cis women tended to self-attribute traits of the opposite gender. Cisgender women were similar to transgender and gender-diverse people in their conception of gender as a performance, indicating a less essentialist notion of gender. Results from the research's quantitative and qualitative sections provided a complex picture of the gender-related experience, particularly for cisgender men, pointing to the need to further explore social standards concerning masculinity and their impact on cis men.

Overall, the study provides an overview of how gender categories, meanings, and cultural norms related to gender are experienced by Italian cis, transgender, and gender-diverse respondents.