

RESEARCH

Abstract

Research Plans

Term/Semester 1

Areas of interest: Identity (Gender/Sexuality), Masculinity (Its construction), Queerness, Culture

Research Question: In what ways has the socialization of males/male-identifying individuals affected or inhibited their honest expressions of a known or unidentified gender binary?

Rationale:

The intention to conduct this research has stemmed from an internal inquiry, that has encouraged an investigation into understanding queer life as situated in the context of a new space (New Country-Norway/ Europe, having completed an autoethnography study within a space that I once lived for over two decades.

In refining my artistic practice, I aim to continue empowering queer individuals through advocacy and provocation in my artistic expression. In conducting this research I am offered new perspectives on the queer culture in Norway, specifically regarding gender/sexual identity and expression and how that manifests.

This research aims to target and focus on how masculinity and its construction have affected the queer expression of cisgender males or those who identify beyond the gender binaries.

How are they viewed and in what ways have their expression been thwarted by the parental or

societal socialization of how they should show up in this society?

In what ways have they evaded the construction of these social norms to be liberal in their expressions?

What do these expressions look like and how are they presented?

In what ways have the actions of queer-identifying individuals in society offered or curated spaces for other individuals navigating their own identities, to be represented or liberated from their constraints of socialized ideologies of how they should show up in the world based on the binaries presented to them?

What are the various layers of masking that individuals have had to endure to fit within the binaries presented?

Methodology

Practice: Forum Theatre strategies/ Street Performance.

Participant interview and group discourse.

Social media / Queer dating apps.

Concept: Shoes, “Walk inna foofah shoes” (Whose shoe?) performance exhibition.

Participants from practice and exploration will be requested to share their stories which will be exhibited through a performative installation alongside an item that they have existed in for some time (their shoes).

For all these individuals as a part of my performance practice exploration. I will wear these shoes for one day, (however I can) doing various activities in society. The internal and external observations will be noted and curated for the exhibition.

Each individual's shoe will display their story and will include the element of interactivity. The audience can “walk in” the shoe of the participant and or experience their story through the sensory experience of visual, audio and or feeling.