Title: Trans* (in)visibility: Progression of media portrayals of trans* identity in the U.S.

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Abstract: Recently, trans* individuals and characters have been featured more frequently in the mainstream media; however, these portrayals remain limited and may not reflect the totality of the community. This roundtable discussion will allow participants to examine media’s portrayal of trans* identities through a multicultural lens. Participants will also have the opportunity to reflect on how these portrayals are related to their personal biases and levels of awareness, as well as their therapeutic work with clients.

Objectives:
- Examine the progression of trans* identity portrayals in media through a multicultural lens
- Identify potential impacts of the changing media portrayals of trans* identity on your work with students/clients
- Reflect and process personal biases and levels of awareness

Questions to consider:

**Societal**

- Warm up exercise: Brainstorm all the trans people that you have seen in various forms of media, including fiction, news, documentaries, television, etc. until you are out of ideas. Write each person on a post-it note.
- What assumptions or stereotypes do we see reflected in the role of trans people and characters in the media?
- How might issues of intersectionality (sexuality, race, class, etc.) influence the portrayals of trans people in the media? How might these issues influence our perception?
- How are the ways that trans people are represented similar to the ways that other marginalized people are represented?

**Clinical**

- How might these media portrayals impact the lived experiences of our trans clients?
- How might you address the media’s systemic transphobia/oppression in your work with trans clients?
- How have these media portrayals impacted you in your life? Might they consciously or unconsciously impact your work with trans clients?

**Future**

- Could there be a more affirming media portrayal of trans people? Is there an “ideal?” How might an “ideal” be problematic?

Sources:
