

GENDER* IN THE ARCHIVES TRANS AT BARNARD: CHECKING THE BOX

Barnard College provides a unique educational environment that is unequivocally dedicated to the success of women. Our policy is to consider for admission any applicant who consistently lives and identifies as a woman, regardless of the gender assigned at birth. I affirm that I consistently live and identify as a woman.*

Yes

A MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION
PUTTING OUR JOY AND RAGE
ON THE R E C O R D





**PUBLISHED IN 2022
IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE BARNARD
COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

WHO WE ARE:

CAITLYN STACHURA, '23

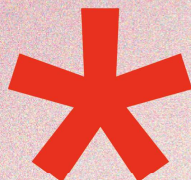
USES THEY/THEM PRONOUNS AND IS A WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR MINORING IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES.

THEY LIVE A DOUBLE LIFE AS A PHOTOGRAPHER WHOSE WORK FOCUSES ON QUEER/TRANS PORTRAITURE AND NIGHTLIFE. YOU CAN REACH THEM AT CMS2368@BARNARD.EDU OR VIA CAITLYNSTACHURA.COM.



AUTUMN JOHNSON, '25

USES THEY/THEM PRONOUNS. THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN EAST ASIAN STUDIES AND ARE CURRENTLY UNDECIDED. YOU CAN REACH THEM AT AJ3049@BARNARD.EDU.



GENDER IN THE ARCHIVES IS:

A MULTIMEDIA INSTALLATION THAT CENTERS TRANS VOICES WITH A GOAL OF HIGHLIGHTING IDENTITY, COMMUNITY, ENDURANCE, AND JOY. AS WE HAVE COLLECTED ACCOUNTS FROM A HANDFUL OF ALUMNI AND CURRENT STUDENTS, WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF QUEER AND TRANS EXPERIENCES AT BARNARD THAT HAVE EVADED THE ARCHIVES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE NUANCES OF THIS ARCHIVAL ABSENCE CAN BE FOUND BY WAY OF EXECUTIONER AND INTENT. THE CHOICE TO WITHHOLD ONE'S NARRATIVE FROM DOCUMENTATION AT BARNARD AS AN ACT OF REFUSAL DIFFERS IMMEASURABLY FROM BARNARD ACTING TO EXCLUDE TRANS STORIES.

FEATURING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

GREY BERKOWITZ, '21

HE/THEY * (ORAL HISTORY)

NOA RUI-PIIN WEISS, '21

HE/HIM * (ORAL HISTORY, PHOTOS)

J MADDEN, '22

THEY/THEM * (TYPED INTERVIEW)

MARIAME SISSKO, 24

THEY/THEM * (ORAL HISTORY, PHOTOS)

ROSIE ELLIOTT, 24

THEY/SHE * (TYPED INTERVIEW, VIDEO)

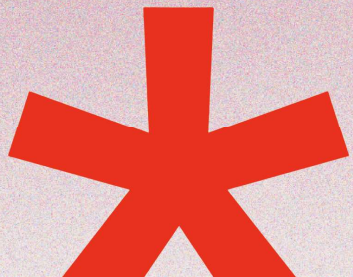
REED CANTRELL, 25

THEY/THEM * (ORAL HISTORY, PHOTO)

WHY IT MATTERS:

BARNARD COLLEGE PLEDGES TO “ADDRESS ISSUES OF GENDER IN ALL OF THEIR COMPLEXITY AND URGENCY” IN THEIR MISSION STATEMENT, YET TRANS STUDENTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DESCRIBED THEIR EXPERIENCES ACROSS INTERACTIONS WITH PEERS, PROFESSORS, AND ADMINISTRATION AS ISOLATING AND OTHERING.

GENDER IN THE ARCHIVES IS A PROJECT SEEKING TO CARVE OUT SPACE FOR TRANS STORIES IN THE EVER-EVOLVING EXPANSE OF THE ARCHIVES. IT IS NEITHER A START NOR A FINISH—THE GROUNDWORK LAID BY THE ACTIVISM OF PREVIOUS TRANS STUDENTS AT BARNARD GUIDES THIS WORK AND IS TO BE SIMILARLY ACKNOWLEDGED IN ALL FUTURE ENDEAVORS.



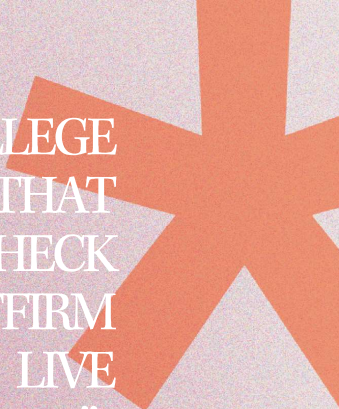
A BRIEF HISTORY OF ADMISSIONS



* IN 2007, A THEN-BARNARD STUDENT NAMED REY WAS MET WITH DISCOMFORT FROM HIS ROOMMATES AFTER HE INFORMED THEM THAT HE WAS TRANS. AT THE TIME, BARNARD DID NOT OFFER SINGLES TO FRESHMEN AND DID NOT ACCOMMODATE REY WITH AN ALTERNATE HOUSING ASSIGNMENT. AFTER CONSULTATIONS INVOLVING REY'S FAMILY AND THE DEAN, REY TRANSFERRED OUT OF BARNARD AND INTO COLUMBIA'S SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES.

* IN 2015, BARNARD UPDATED ITS ADMISSIONS POLICY TO BE INCLUSIVE OF TRANS WOMEN. THIS WAS IN LARGE PART DUE TO THE WORK OF THEN-STUDENTS SUCH AS DYLAN KAPIT. BARNARD WAS THE LAST OF THE "SEVEN SISTERS" CONSORTIUM TO ADMIT TRANS WOMEN—THE FIRST WAS MOUNT HOLYOKE IN SEPTEMBER OF 2014.

* AS OF JULY 2022, IT IS STILL REQUIRED THAT POTENTIAL STUDENTS SELF-IDENTIFY AS A WOMAN AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPLICATION AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION THAT SUPPORTS "THIS SELF-IDENTIFICATION." BARNARD'S POLICIES CLAIM THAT IF A STUDENT WERE TO TRANSITION WHILE ATTENDING BARNARD THEY WOULD "RECEIVE THE INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT THAT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE BARNARD EXPERIENCE."



BARNARD IS THE ONLY COLLEGE WITHIN THE “SEVEN SISTERS” THAT REQUIRES APPLICANTS TO CHECK A BOX WHEN APPLYING TO AFFIRM THAT THEY “CONSISTENTLY LIVE AND IDENTIFY AS A WOMAN”.

OF THE FIVE “SEVEN SISTERS” THAT RETAIN THEIR IDENTITIES AS “WOMEN’S COLLEGES”, MOUNT HOLYOKE, BRYN MAWR, AND WELLESLEY WELCOME NONBINARY/GENDER NON-CONFORMING STUDENTS IN THEIR ADMISSIONS POLICIES. LIKE BARNARD, SMITH COLLEGE REITERATES THAT STUDENTS MUST IDENTIFY AS WOMEN AT THE TIME OF THEIR APPLICATION. HOWEVER, UNLIKE SMITH, BARNARD REMAINS THE ONLY COLLEGE IN THE CONSORTIUM TO STATE IN THEIR GENDER POLICY THAT APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE PROVIDED AS EVIDENCE OF AN APPLICANT’S GENDER IDENTITY RATHER THAN ADOPTING SOLELY A POLICY OF SELF-IDENTIFICATION.

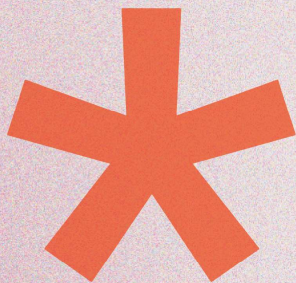
TAKEAWAYS

* TO ENCOURAGE THE EXAMINATION OF BARNARD'S ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ERASURE OF TRANS NARRATIVES WITHIN THE ARCHIVE; TO UNDERSTAND THE INSTITUTION OF BARNARD IS DELIBERATE IN ITS CURATION AND VIOLENT IN ITS EXCLUSION

* TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND UPLIFT THE HISTORIES AND FUTURES OF TRANS STUDENTS AT BARNARD

* TO CREATE A TEMPORARY SPACE FOR THE TRANS COMMUNITY TO GATHER HERE AT BARNARD

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



MARTHA TENNEY

SHE/HER * DIRECTOR OF THE
BARNARD ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

OBDEN MONDÉSIR

HE/HIM * ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE
BARNARD ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CHE GOSSETT

THEY/THEM * POSTDOC AT THE CENTER FOR
CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THOUGHT AT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (READ ABOUT THEIR
WORK AT CHEGOSSETT.WORDPRESS.COM)

DYLAN KAPIT

THEY/THEM * BARNARD COLLEGE LGBTQ+
OUTREACH COORDINATOR (READ ABOUT
THEIR WORK AT DYLANKAPIT.ME)

IS PERLMAN

THEY/THEM * CONTRIBUTING ARTIST (FIND
MORE OF THEIR WORK AT ISPERLMAN.COM)

SOURCES

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