

# LGBTQ Research Symposium 2021

## Drag Expression and How it Interfaces with Dragism, Coping, Resilience, and Generativity

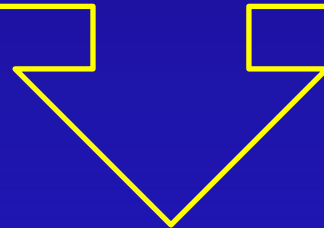
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# Research Questions & Methods

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1. Meaning of Drag Expression (DE).
2. Is DE a mechanism to a healthier state of self.
3. How DE is integrated with one's persona and how it interfaces with discrimination, coping, resilience, and generativity.

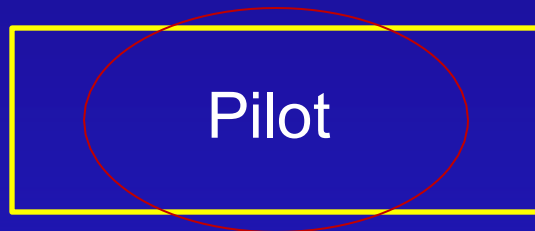


Paucity of Research	Drag Queens (DQ) 50+
Exploratory	Qualitative

# Design

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## Phase 1



## Phase 2



- ✓ WebEx
- ✓ Semi-structured interview
  - Aim for 90 minutes
  - Online Surveys
  - Demographic
- Psychosocial measures

- ✓ Summer/Fall 2021

# Eligibility

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1. Self-identified as a DQ
2. Experience in any capacity as a DQ
3. Self-identified as a gender or sexual minority
4. 50+
5. English primary language
6. Resident of U.S.

# Participants Demographics

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- ✓ N=4
- ✓ Male 4
- ✓ Sexual orientation – Gay 4
- ✓ Between age 50 – 90
- ✓ High school 3; Master's degree 1
- ✓ Latino 1
- ✓ Black 1; White 2
- ✓ Married 1; Single 2; Dating 1

# Participants Demographics

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- ✓ Genre of Drag (12 options)
- ✓ Multiplicity of Responses
  - 17 Genre Selections from 4 Participants
  - Top 3
    - Art
    - Glamour
    - Historical Drag

# Findings

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## Theme 1

### Meaning of DE

- ✓ Drag vs. Trans
  - Do not Want to be Female
  - Strength of Women/Femininity
- ✓ Drag vs. Cross Dress
  - Private vs. Public

# Findings: T1 Meaning of DE

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## Do not want to be female:

“I don't want to be a woman, you know, I enjoy being gay and being a male.” 01

“Yeah, it has nothing to do, it that has nothing to do with me feeling like a female.” 02

“I never thought of myself as trying to emulate women.” 04



# Findings: T1 Meaning of DE

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## Drag vs Cross Dress / Public vs. Private:

“LD: Yeah. Like, if you got dressed up, and just did it in your home, I am very curious...”

03: I would say that's not drag.

LD: Okay.

03: That, that's a cross dresser.

LD: Okay.

03: That's the businessman down at Lehman Brothers that wear their wife's underwear [laughingly]. No, I don't. I don't care. That's not drag to me.” 03

# Findings

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## Theme 2 Performance

- ✓ Acting, Art, Music, Dance, Cabaret
- ✓ Prepared (rehearsal) vs. Natural
- ✓ "Contests"
- ✓ Identification with Female Vocalists

## Findings: T2 Performance

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“Drag is gay men dressing up to perform as women” 02

“But for me, drag queen means performer. To me it equals performer. If you’re not on the stage, if you’re doing this not for the stage, then I don’t think you’re a drag queen. You’re a transperson or a cross dresser If you are just dressing up and you’re not performing” 04

# Findings

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## Theme 3

### “Bringing” Us Into Their World

- ✓ Homes
- ✓ Drag Self
- ✓ Drag Objects / Drag Wardrobe
- ✓ Art / Artifacts
- ✓ Activism
- ✓ Organically Happened

# Findings

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## Theme 4 Generativity

- ✓ Activism
- ✓ Bi-directional
- ✓ Not interested = 1

# Findings

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## Theme 5

### “Dragism” = Discrimination

- ✓ 60's Were Unkind, Closeted
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Physically Assaulted
- ✓ Seeking Underground Medical Treatments

## Findings: T5 “Dragism” = Discrimination

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“Who cares why is somebody walking in high heels scare you so much? Why would that somebody was carrying a gun to me would scare the s\*\*\* out of me. Somebody walking in or carrying a pair heel wouldn't scare me.” 01

# Findings

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## Theme 6

### Strength & Power

- ✓ Relationship with Mother
- ✓ Role Models
- ✓ Family



## Findings: T6 Strength & Power

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“I was fortunate to flourish and bloom and become, whatever I wanted to become, you know, and I think even if, even if I wanted to go down the path of, say, if I wanted to be able to transition, I don't think they would have a problem with it in the least by me dresses.” 01

“She protected me from, from she knew that I was different.” 02

“In fact, I am married, I have 2 children. I've got 2 children. I've got 2 grandchildren and now I have 2 great grandchildren. A little boy, little girl, and they, they're wonderful and beautiful. And we see all the time. I'm so lucky. My family loves what I do. They're a part of it.” 04

“I know how fortunate, I am, because not everybody has that.” 01

# Findings

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## Theme 7

### DE Mechanism of Coping & Resilience

- ✓ Emulating Strength of Women/Femininity
  - ✓ Armor
  - ✓ Fierce
  - ✓ Fearless
  - ✓ Another Ego
  - ✓ Empowering
- ✓ Confidence Building over Time

# Findings: T7 DE Mechanism of Coping & Resilience

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“It's like you, it's like your armor, you know what I mean? It's like you're, you're, you're, you're shield like Wonder woman has it's like, I'm fierce, I'm fierce” 01

“To be honest with, you, 02 the boy, is not fierce, was not fierce. This is all new for me to be a 02 the boy. When I'm DQ, you can't come for me. I'm like, it's beyond it's like....I think I'm great.” 02

“It's another ego. And you have to have a big ego to get in.” 04

# What do you want the world to know?

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“I would love the world to know that we're not clowns.” 01

“Remember that behind all this glitz and glamor there's a pretty nice person. And maybe you should find out about who this person is first, and then worry about whether she's in drag or not. No, I, uh, I hope they know that I, I'm a nice guy and things are okay in my life, and I can deal with it. Now you deal with it.” 04

# Contact Information

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