

**Passing With an F: The Role of Trans Status and Physiological Gender Conformity on Views of Prison Policy in Female Sexual Abuse Cases**

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Though many prisons are working toward developing more gender-responsive and inclusive prison policies, given the newness of this trend, little research has been done to understand what biases may exist that can impact the ways in which these policies are understood and truly manifest in the working prison environment. The current study sought to investigate the influence of transgender or cisgender status as well as physiological gender conformity (PGC), or “passing” as the gender with which you identify, has on people’s punitive decision-making and support of gender inclusive prison policies for women with sex offence cases. It looked at punitive and policy variables such as choice in bodily autonomy, access to medication, sex offender treatment intensity, and recommended sex offender registry length. It used two pretested computer-generated photographs rated for high and low PGC and accompanied them with a transgender or cisgender vignette to make four separate conditions: High PGC cisgender, Low PGC cisgender, High PGC transgender, and Low PGC transgender. Drawing on a data set of 200 high school graduate and above mTurk workers (n=50 per condition), this study found that, for prison policy regarding choice in bodily autonomy, there was a significant main effect of transgender status ( $p < 0.01$ ) on people’s response to the reasonability of one’s request for gender congruent staff. However, there was no statistically significant effect of high or low PGC, nor any statistically significant effects in the other punitive and policy variables. The implications of these findings suggest that knowledge of transgender status, regardless of level of psychological gender conformity, may impact people’s decision-making surrounding gender inclusive practices.

**Leviathan Davis** is a recent graduate from The Evergreen State College. Leviathan has a strong passion for the promotion and furthering of gender inclusive research relating to sexual abuse treatment and prevention. They hope to continue to add to the growing diaspora of information lead by increasingly diverse perspectives to help inform more holistic, effective, and evidence-based rehabilitative and preventative practices both within carceral and clinical settings.