Gender Anomalies in a Biographical Database

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Collective Biographies of Women

COLLABORATORS:

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              for more thanks, see
http://cbw.iath.virginia.edu   "ABOUT☐PEOPLE"

http://womensbios.lib.virginia.edu annotated bibliography

8500+ persons, including male and female biographers

1272 collections=books with 3+ all-female biographies

14,444 chapters in these books, primarily biographies of one woman

Based on my book, *How to Make It as a Woman: Collective Biographical History from Victoria to the Present* (Chicago: U Chicago Press, 2004)

Recognition?
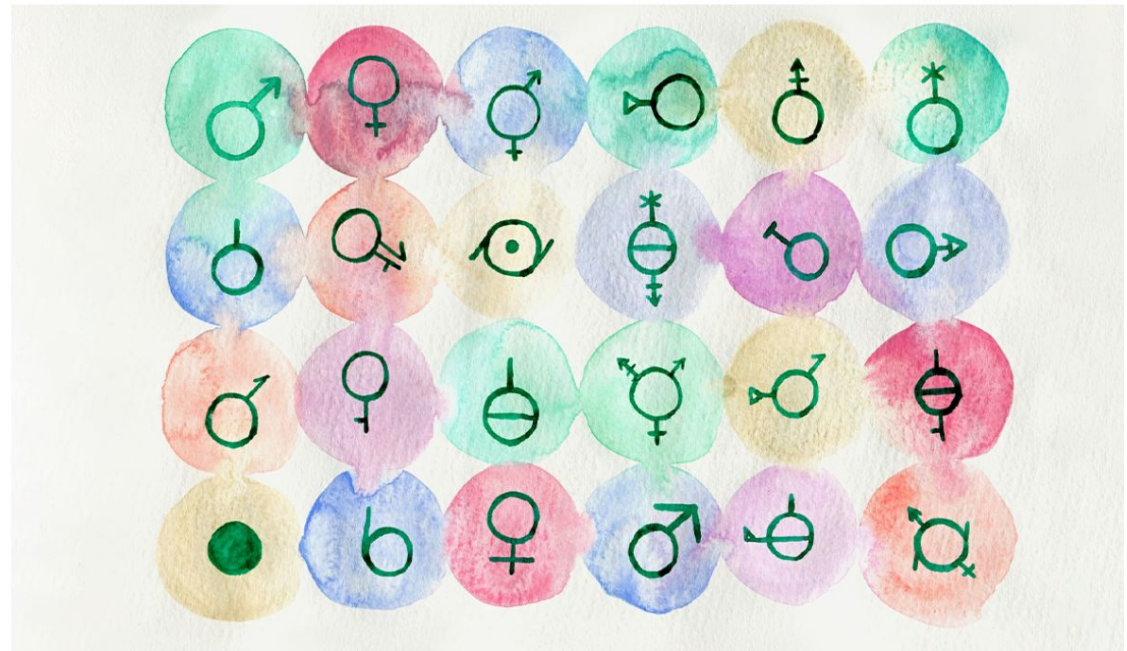# Typecasting?
Beyond binaries?

Alison: "==Strategic== ==typologies=="

Susan: "==Categorically== ==provisional=="

Gender-Nonconforming Employees Deserve Better Policies

by Lily Zheng

November 20, 2020

Liliya Rodnikova/Stocksy

Prosopography= personae-writing
biographies in and about groups, collective biography

- "Prosopon" = mask or persona
  - Appearance, visual representation

- Prosopopeia, the rhetoric of invoking/animating an absent or dead entity, is the archivist's voice!

  But…death had undone so many!

Prosopography

To deal with the many

in parallel lives

A method by historians, philologists, digital humanists to interpret patterned data re populations

SNAC is prosopography

Linked CBW and SNAC records   NEH Startup Level II 2015-2017

Who does what to whom?

Persons in printed prosopographies are already framed or labeled.
Sometimes written by friends, sometimes still living.

Rarely based on archival research.

We infer types and categories from **implied audience**

And from other paratext: **Prefaces** or **comments** in the narratives.
Titles and **TOCs** already indicate types, e.g. African American; Methodist.

The *why* of representing □ women

Reading can reveal the criteria for selecting the subjects.

Broad title:

Great Wives and Mothers (New York, 1917-1927)

All 18 women are Catholic in chronological TOC.

Being Catholic is more remarkable in post-Reformation, but not stated by paratext.

Collective Biographies *of* WOMEN

HOW BOOKS RESHAPE LIVES

Women / Persons ~ P17030

Mary Read

Related External Links

- sn ac Social Networks and Archival Context

Alternate Names:

- Mark Read

Gender: Female

Life Dates: ca. 1695 - April 1721

Types:

Adventure, physical feat or survival
Cross dresser, male impersonator
English
Heroine in war
Military
Pirate
Prisoner or captive

Note: Convicted pirate

Find persons with 1 degrees of separation from Mary Read

Biographies (2 Total)

- A Pirate in Petticoats
  Author: Henry Thomas . Collection Title: Wild Women of History. 1937

- Mary Read and Anne Bonny
  Author: Cameron Rogers . Collection Title: Gallant Ladies. 1928

Mary Read, pirate of the Caribbean

Read, Mary, ca. 1695-1721 Variant names

⚙ Detailed View   ↺ Revision History   ▤ Sources   ⬇ Export ▾   Hide Prof

| Biography | **Resources** | Relationships | Places | Subjects | Occupations | Functions |

🌐 View Collection Locations

Archival Resources ▾

Show [10 ⏏] entries   Search: [Title, Role, Repository]

Role ⏶⏷	Title ⏶	Holding Repository ⏶⏷ ⏷
referencedIn	1976/08/19 - Cary Grant Introduction of Betty Ford, Kansas City, Missouri	United States. National Archives and Records Administration ⓘ

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries   Previous | 1 | Next

Bibliographic and Digital Archival Resources ▾

Show [10 ⏏] entries   Search: [Title, Role, Repository]

Role ⏶⏷	Title ⏶	Holding Repository ⏶⏷
referencedIn	Gallant Ladies.	ⓘ
referencedIn	Wild Women of History.	ⓘ

Person

Exist Dates: Birth 1695

Death 1721

Related Descriptions

🖼 Collective Biographies of Women

Search Elsewhere

▦ ArchiveGrid Search

▦ DPLA Search

Information

Permalink: http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w60d5jmj

Ark ID: w60d5jmj

SNAC ID: 83096136

strategic typologies.

Team of student RAs and project leaders choose from controlled vocabulary. Each person has multiple types, not just nationality, occupation. We identify "race" as the book and chapter state it (white is default).

adventuress (36)

cross-dressing (55),

military women (104),

- sexual agency, bissexual or queer
- Sexual agency, transgression (hetero)
- sexual agency, transgression (homo)

Writers, artists, etc.

Genius is often considered a gender transgression ("the brain of a man, the heart of a woman").

Search Persons

NAME (AUTO-COMPLETE):

[   ]

SEARCH BY FULL NAME:

| Last Name |
| First Name |
| Middle Name |
| Prefix |
| Suffix |

LIFE DATES:

| Filter by year Person was alive |

GENDER:

- ✓
    - Assumed-F
    - Female
    - Gender nonconforming ⬅
    - Male
    - Transgender
    - Unknown

About CBW Person Records

CBW contains over 8600 Person Records: one for every person who is the subject of a chapter in a collective biography of women. All authors, editors, illustrators, and translators (classified as "presenters" in CBW) have Person Records as well.

A Person Record has

- ○ Annotated bibliographic information about ever book in which the Person is featured
- ○ A documentary social network in similar collections

Most Person Records also have

- ○ Life dates
- ○ Gender
- ○ Alternate Person names
- ○ Thematic categorization by Collection (book) Type
- ○ Thematic categorization by Person Type

Persons · Books · Biographies · Cohorts · Case Studies · About · Resources · Bibliography

Collective Biographies *of* WOMEN

HOW BOOKS RESHAPE LIVES

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Can we ethically provide access to the nineteenth century's ways of labeling people?

Are we clearly designating our new labels as anachronistic?