

## **Leaving the normative highway: An exploration of the non-binary gender and sexual identity tracks**

*A qualitative biographical interview study*

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The binary perspective on sexual orientation and gender identity is gradually changing. Instead of identifying as heterosexual *or* non-heterosexual, male *or* female, there is an increasing awareness that sexual attraction and gender identities cannot be captured within the binary. The current theoretical and clinical knowledge on non-binary sexual and gender identity development is however limited.

The current study aims to investigate non-binary gender identity formation and the processes and factors involved in the desire to socially, legally and/or physically transition. With use of semi-structured biographical interviews in non-binary identifying youth (15-23 years of age), recruited from referrals to a gender identity clinic, from a school-based population study, and adolescents / young adults who are participating in the queer subculture, our objective is two folded: (1) Understand the processes involved in the discovery and formation of non-binary gender identities in relation to sexual identity, contextual and cultural influences. (2) Explore the underlying motives and contextual and cultural influences in relation to the presence or absence of a need to transition socially, legally and/or physically.