

ABSTRACT

TRANSVESTISM: FASHION BEYOND GENDER ROLES

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While several research uncovers the core notion of transvestism, and debates whether it's a psychological symptom of gender dysphoria, it organically tends to undo the idea of whether self-identity is restricted and prohibited due to several social norms. Unlike most authors who work on statistics collected through the course of their research, the author of this paper completely relies on empirical data available in both primary and secondary sources, and aim to identify the downfall of self-identity, in a sense and standpoint where people expressing themselves is viewed as much of a taboo, instead as a personal choice, and examine the root cause of such social complexes. Representations of cross-dressers in media such as film, television, or literature are examined and discussed in terms of the two facets of cross-dressing culture, including the immense festivity and perilous border of androgyny. The analysis's findings show that studying androgyny, a distinct aesthetic temperament in cross-dressers, breaks the consistency between male and female in social and physiological gender to a certain extent, blurs the social distinctions between the sexes with clear boundaries, and increases public acceptance of the phenomenon of "cross-dressing."

Keywords- Cross dressing, social phenomenon, religious culture, gender identity

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