

Why do men dress in clothes designed for women?

Schools; headteachers, teachers, governors, Trust directors, parents etc.; should be asking 'why do men dress in clothes designed for women?'

In the mid-1980s a clinical psychologist name Dr Ray Blanchard of Toronto wished to know why some males with gender dysphoria were happy to cross dress in clothes designed for women as an aid to masturbation and why some wore such clothes and wanted to be a womanⁱ.

Dr Blanchard concluded that the males with gender dysphoria could be divided into two groups:

Androphilic: Homosexual males "exclusively sexually attracted to men and are markedly feminine in behaviour and appearance from a young age. They typically begin the process of medical transition before the age of 30"ⁱⁱ.

Autogynephile (AGP): A heterosexual males who is sexually aroused at the thought or image of himself as a woman. These men are "more likely to transition later in life and to have been conventionally masculine in presentation up until that point"ⁱⁱⁱ.

- Autogynephilia is not a sexual orientation. It resembles one in that it involves elements of idealization and attachment as well as erotic desireⁱⁱⁱ.
- Autogynephilia is a male paraphilia: sometimes referred to as a transvestic paraphilia, transvestite, trans (transgender) or transexual.

According to Miranda Yardley^{iv} (a man with gender dysphoria, doesn't claim to be a woman) types of **autogynephilia** include:

- **"Transvestic autogynephilia:** arousal to the act or fantasy of wearing typically feminine clothing (this is what people often mean when they talk about autogynephilia, but it is much more nuanced);
- **Behavioural autogynephilia:** arousal to the act or fantasy of doing something regarded as feminine, also covers 'interpersonal autogynephilia';
- **Physiologic autogynephilia:** arousal to fantasies of body functions specific to people regarded as female (there's some way-out stuff on the Internet of males getting a kick from pretending to be pregnant); and
- **Anatomic autogynephilia:** arousal to the fantasy of having a normative woman's body, or parts of one (breasts are a common fantasy, often the autogynephile will want breasts but to keep his penis and testicles, this is an instance of 'partial autogynephilia').

Dr Az Hakeem^v (MBBS MSc FRCPsych Consultant Psychiatrist & Medical Psychotherapist) uses the following terms:

Transsexual: believes they should have been born the opposite sex from the one they are. This is the group who are most likely to want a 'sex' change.

Transvestite: do not believe themselves to be the opposite sex but enjoy wearing the clothes designed for the opposite sex.

- Tend to be men who cross dress as a source of sexual arousal for various reasons.
- Are excited by others being forced to notice and react to their transgression of boundaries.
- Some enjoy being reminded they are a man as it arouses them sexually.
- Tend to keep their male genitalia.
- Also referred to by Dr Hakeem as 'fetishistic crossdressers'.

The phenomenon of AGP should not be taken lightly or dismissed as irrelevant. The Internet is full of communities for AGPs and similar fetishes/paraphilias. Some focus on transgender topics and many have sub-sections for those who wish to transition^{vi}.

Dr Michael Bailey describes autogynephilia in his book *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*, 2003 thus:

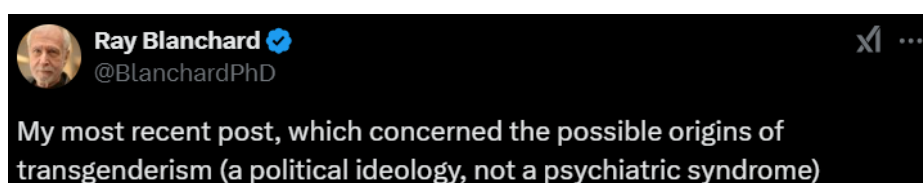
"They [autogynophiles] were not especially feminine boys. The first overt manifestation of what led to their transsexualism was typically during early adolescence, when they secretly dressed in their mothers' or sisters' lingerie, looked at themselves in the mirror, and masturbated. This activity continued into adulthood, and sexual fantasies became increasingly transsexual – especially the fantasy of having a vulva, perhaps being penetrated by a penis. Autogynephilic transsexuals might declare attraction to women or men, to both, or to neither. But their primary attraction is to the women that they would become."

Helen Joyce, in her article on Dr Ray Blanchard¹, puts it bluntly: *"If a guy decides he's coming to work as a woman from now on, it's one thing for him to say: 'I'm coming to terms with the fact that I've always been a woman inside,' and quite another to say: 'I've moved on from just masturbating in women's clothes to wearing them all the time.'"*



A male with autogynephilia who brings it to school is, therefore, in the process of re-defining reality for staff and children to suit his version of himself. It is not a neutral act.

A male who comes into school asking to be validated as a woman is forcing his political ideology onto others. Blanchard himself, in a tweet dated 4th January 2025, reminds his readers that transgenderism is a political ideology not a psychiatric condition.



Resources

- i The Truth about Autogynephilia, Helen Joyce
<https://quillette.com/2021/09/07/the-truth-about-autogynephilia/>
- ii What Is Autogynephilia? An Interview with Dr Ray Blanchard, by Louise Perry
<https://quillette.com/2019/11/06/what-is-autogynephilia-an-interview-with-dr-ray-blanchard/>
- iii Autogynephilia: an underappreciated paraphilia, Ann A Lawrence
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22005209/>
- iv What Autogynephilia is, and what is it not; a brief note: Miranda Yardley
<https://mirandayardley.com/en/what-autogynephilia-is-and-what-is-it-not-a-brief-note/>
- v Detrans, Dr. Az Hakeem, 2023
Independently published (9 Oct. 2023)
- vi Feministwiki, Autogynephilia
<https://feministwiki.org/wiki/Autogynephilia>