

# Culture, Society, and Praxis

---

Volume 3 | Number 1

Article 12

---

January 2004

## Untitled

Sara Hughes

*California State University, Monterey Bay*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/csp>

---

### Recommended Citation

Hughes, Sara (2004) "Untitled," *Culture, Society, and Praxis*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/csp/vol3/iss1/12>

This Poetry and Creative Writing / Poesía Expresión Artística is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Journals at Digital Commons @ CSUMB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Culture, Society, and Praxis by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ CSUMB. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@csumb.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@csumb.edu).

## Transgender

By Sara Hughes

*This contribution by Sara Hughes will challenge your views of normalcy in sexuality. This powerfully experiential reflection humanizes the experience of unique individuals making extraordinary decisions, in this case a decision to bring consistency to one's own gender identity.*

I started my college career in 1998 at CSU Fresno. I first attended CSU Monterey Bay in the Fall 2000 Semester. After a brief leave of absence during the Fall 2003/Spring 2004 Semester I find myself settling back into the dorms here at CSU Monterey Bay. While here it has been a mixture of joy, sadness, pride, anxiety, clarity and confusion. There was joy when I attended my first class this semester. I worked my way out of a metaphorical hole to get where I am now. There has been some sadness when it comes to family but they're still standing by me even if they claim they will never understand. There is sadness when I put my best effort into my appearance and I'm referred to as "Sir". I remind myself I am on a journey and it takes time, strength and patience. There is pride when I hear my new name, referred to as Miss or Ma'am, and I'm even starting to feel pride when I look in a mirror. I'm on my way but I'm not there yet. My anxiety comes from things like my facial hair and what to me feels like a forehead the size of a landing strip. I am all too aware these are things I can't immediately help but nonetheless they can cause me grief. A guy friend who knew me before I started this journey asked me if I was anxious because I was wearing make-up, and etc on a trip to the grocery store. I told him if I do feel anxious it has more to do with the quality of my makeup application skills than the makeup itself. I'm learning

everyday how to improve my appearance with the trial and error method. I have an overwhelming sense of calm and clarity when it comes to my purpose on this journey the confusion and anxiety sprout from the means and/or methods. A sense of humor is required to maintain perspective. Looking back on my first outings I have come a long way. I learn my new role just as any girl I assume would, I look for friends, peers and role models. It can be challenging however when a girl starts this learning process late and with the incorrect anatomy. I am just beginning to explore my true self and I have yet had the opportunity to sample all that is now available to me. With time/patience/strength not to mention a mountain of cash I will make it.

My name is Sara Parker Hughes. If a label must be applied I am transsexual, I'd prefer to say I was born with a female brain and a male body. The term transsexual by itself can conjure a multitude of images in ones mind. I think my peers would agree most are inaccurate. A sensationalistic media created most of these images. Having said that I'll only speak to the things I have done, currently doing, and plan on doing without labels when possible. I began my transition from male to female on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2004. I started female hormones on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2004, two days before my birthday. By far that was the best birthday I've ever had. Before I could be prescribed hormones I underwent a vari-

ety of psychological tests. This testing was required by the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care a.k.a. the rules one must follow to be eligible for Gender Re-assignment Surgery in the United States. I have scheduled appointments to burn off my facial hair with a laser. I plan on getting Electrolysis (Permanent Hair Removal) in a variety of areas, Facial Feminization Surgery (Brow Bone Reduction, Forehead Reduction and changes to my chin/jaw), Trachea Shave (Removal of my adam's apple) and the grand finale Gender Re-Assignment Surgery.