

*A Transgender Candidate's  
Experience  
on a Pre-service TESOL Course*

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# *Agenda*

- Introduction
- Quick poll
- Group discussions
- Research findings
- Q & A



# *Context*

1. Independent school;  
adult pre-service TESOL course
2. Application form; vetting
3. Interview; private conversation
4. Study – narrative inquire; case study;  
action research

## *Quick Poll*

1. Who knows someone who is non-binary, transgender?
2. Who has experience working with non-binary, transgender people?

*NB: not* “who is non-binary or transgender here?”

Safety

Climate still unfriendly, if not hostile or dangerous

## *Group Discussion - Exploration*

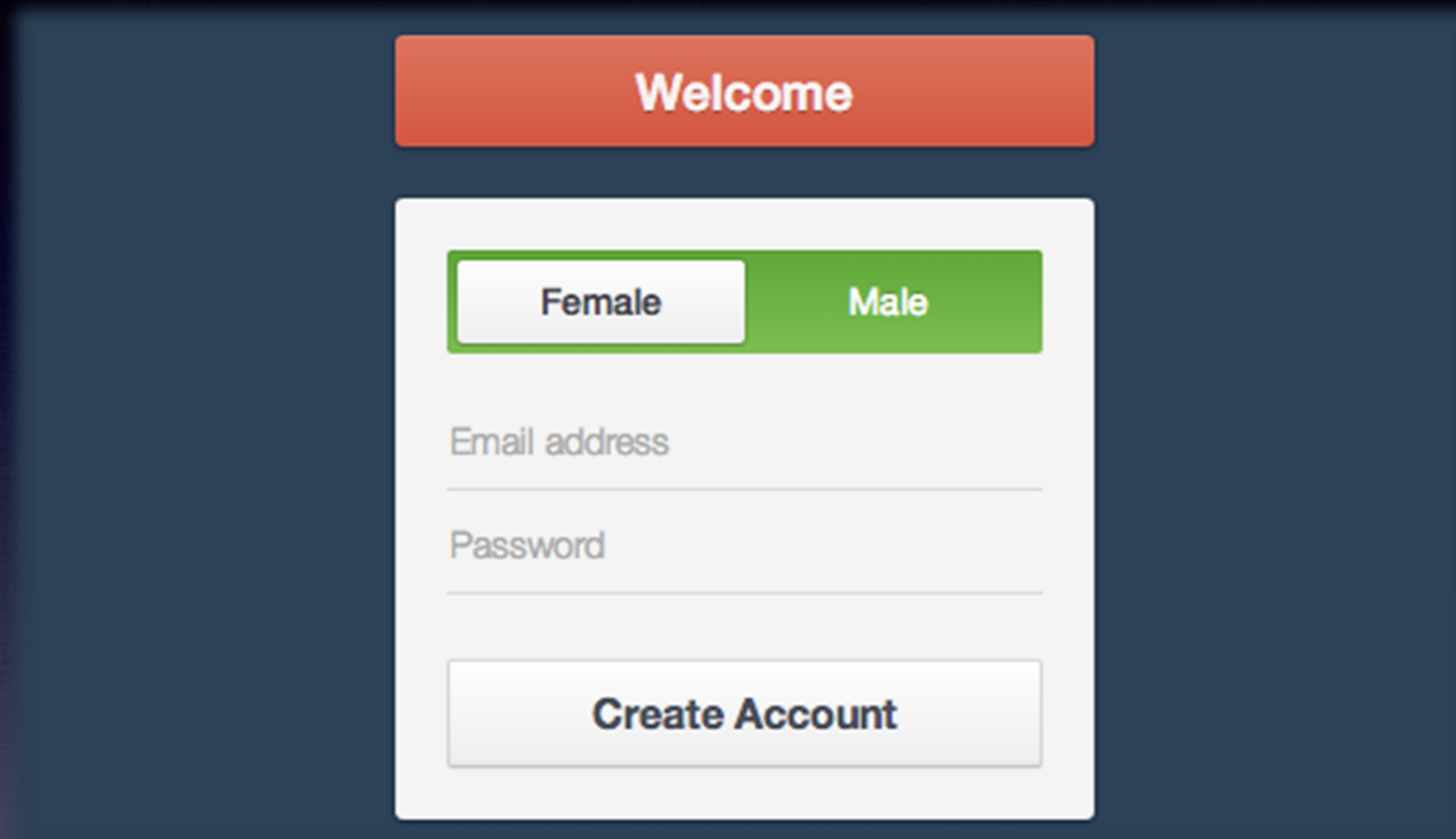
What may be some issues for transgender or non-binary people on a TESOL course?

Consider:      applying  
                     meeting and contact  
                     course experience

# *Discussion results*

A.

# *Findings from study*



The image shows a registration form on a dark blue background. At the top is an orange button labeled "Welcome". Below it is a white registration box containing two radio buttons for gender: "Female" (with a white background and green border) and "Male" (with a green background). Below the gender options are two text input fields labeled "Email address" and "Password". At the bottom of the white box is a white button labeled "Create Account".

A. Technology – forced binary choice



## *Findings from study – cont'd*

### B. Meeting pre-course

“Anything (else) you’d like to tell me about yourself?”

Give them a choice to disclose

# *Findings from study – cont'd*

## C. Pronouns



## C. Pronouns – *cont'd*

- ‘They’ pronouns
- Practice makes (less im-)perfect
- Negotiated strategies – e.g. policing

*Findings from study – cont'd*



D.



## D. Facilities

Possible to convert an existing  
bathroom?

Signage

Managing user expectations

## *Findings from study – cont'd*

### E. Relationships and safety

Code of conduct

Discussion – staff and students

## *Findings from study – cont'd*

### F. Policy

Bottom up vs. top down

Needs and buy-in

*Q & A*



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