

TRANSGENDER SEXUALITY: PORN, LEGISLATION, AND EMBODIMENT

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INTRODUCTION

- Trans individuals make up less than 1% of the US population
 - Trans visibility in pornography has skyrocketed over the last 10 years
 - In 2025, transgender categories were the second most viewed on Pornhub → indicating a rise in the popularity of trans content
 - My research focuses on two spheres of regulation in the United States: porn and legislation
- This paper examines how **bourgeois domination is proliferated partly through the taxonomic classification of persons. The bodily incongruence of trans people not only deviates from this structure but circumvents it entirely; therefore, bourgeois powers are exercised to regulate trans bodies.**

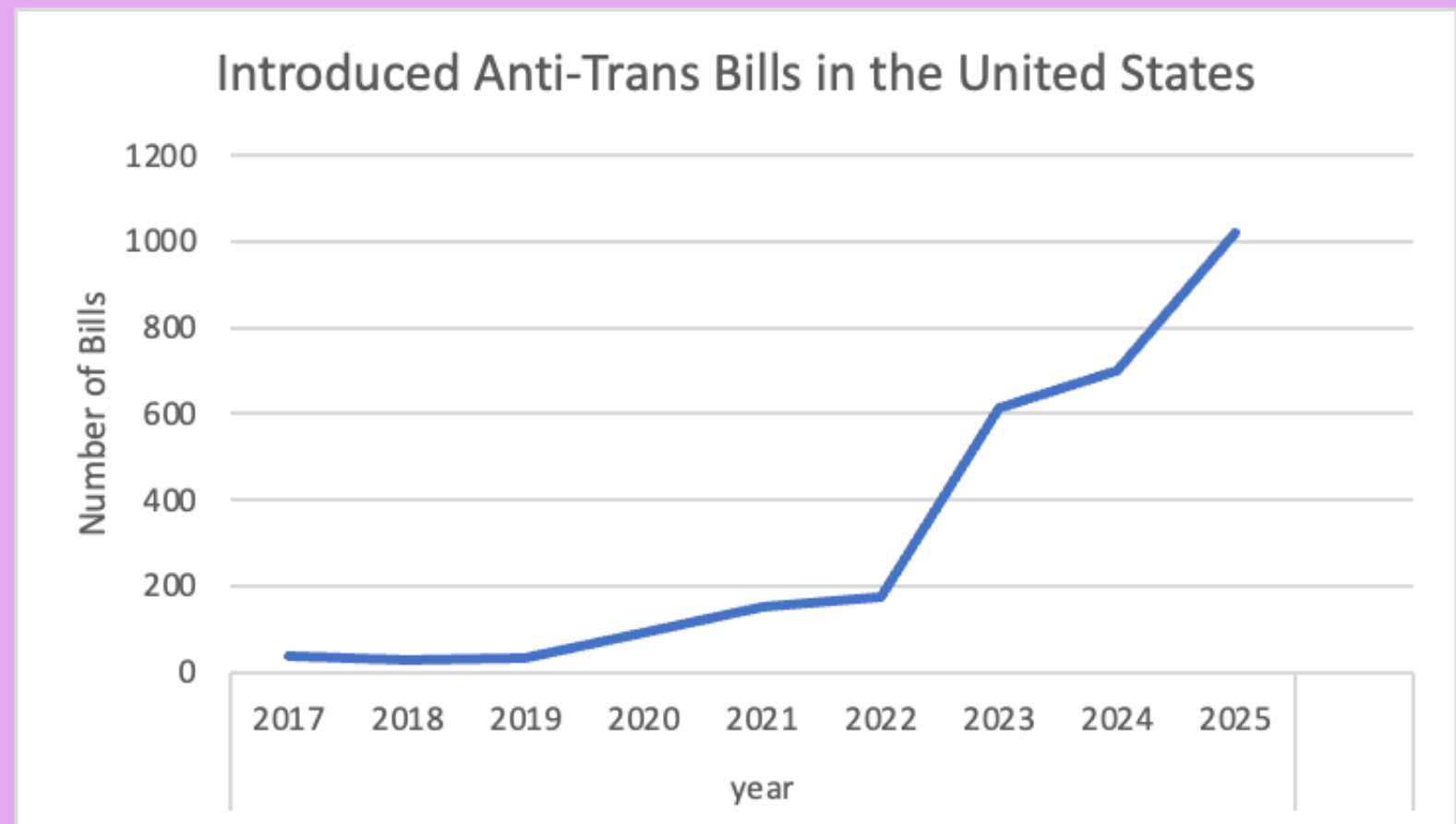
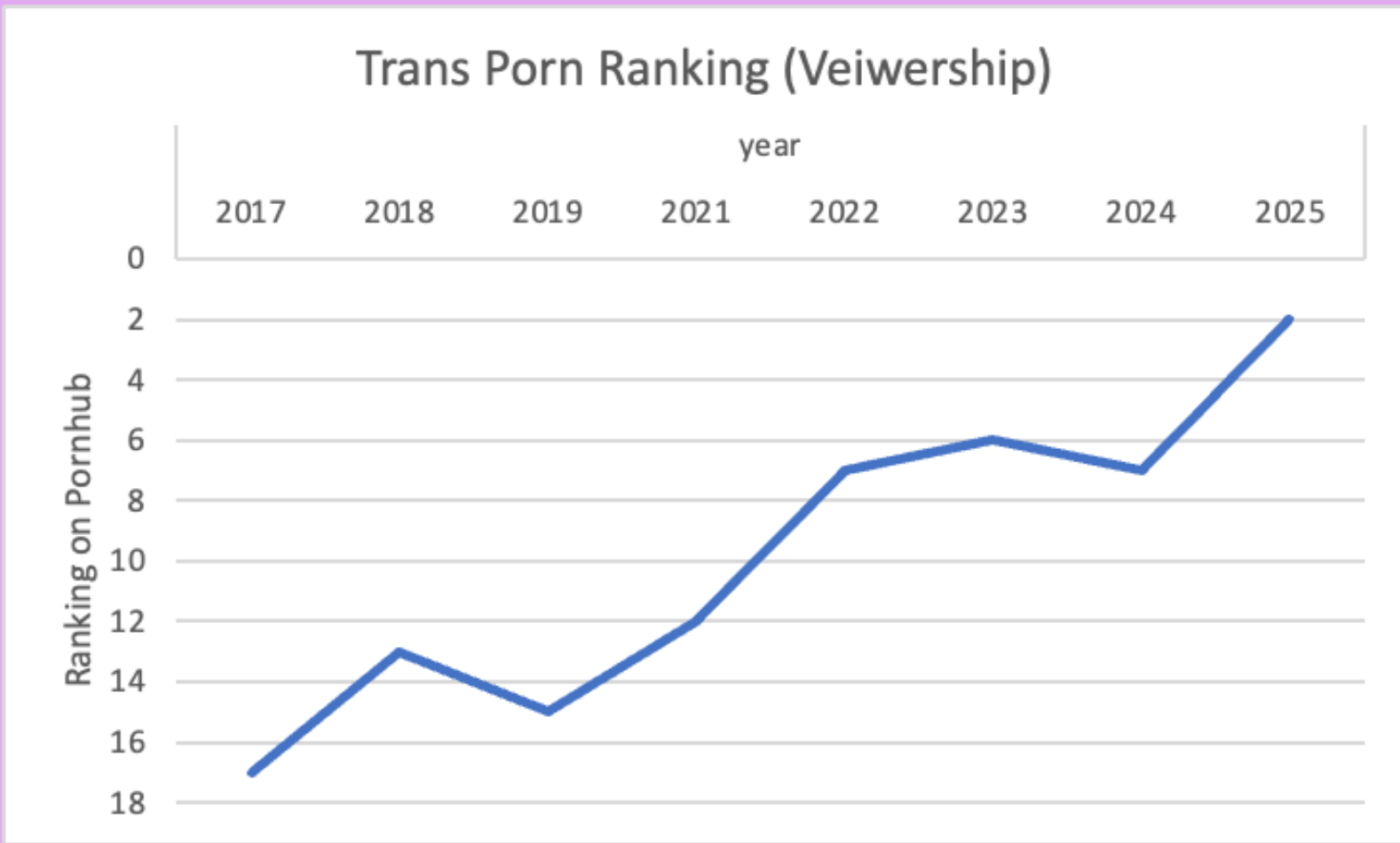
THE RISE OF TRANS PORN + ANTI-TRANS LEGISLATION

- In 2016, trans content did not rank in the top categories of Pornhub
- In 2017, a steady increase in its popularity was recorded
- In 2025, it was the second most viewed category on Pornhub
- These stats are reflective of American viewing habits (considering that the United States is the top viewer of the site)
- Over the last 7 years, there has been a rise in legislation targeting trans Americans → this seems to be based on a cultural narrative which classifies trans bodies as inherently sexual

USE OF AUTO THEORY

- This methodology differs from previous works due to the use of Autotheory alongside traditional academic writing
- **Autotheory is used to make use of my lived and embodied experiences as a trans man of sexual maturity to illustrate, complicate, and be in conversation with theories engaged → locating the conversation within an experience of trans embodiment**
- Conversations about transness are often had from a cis perspective - speaking to the impact trans people have on others → it is imperative to centre trans conversations in trans experiences without prioritizing the “consequence” of our existence on a majority-cis public

“(autotheory is) work that engages in thinking about the self, the body, and the particularities and peculiarities of one’s lived experiences, as processed through or juxtaposed against theory—or as the basis for theoretical thinking.”
- Arianne Zwartjes



BODILY INCOHERENCE + THE TRANS FORM

- A specific definition of a “trans body” is used in my research: binary (male to female, or female to male) and medically transitioning to the point of full or partial irreversability.
- The research argues that these bodies are categorically unique, fitting into neither male nor female definitions of sex
- A creation of bodily incoherence that is regulated within the dominant American culture is harboured through both porn and legislation.
- This incoherence must be faced by both trans and cis people in order to subvert oppressive systems
- 6 of my personal experiences where the incoherence of my trans body was categorized are discussed → this highlights the multiplicity of reactions to similar base experiences, showing the nuance and complexity of transness

CONCLUSION

- The incoherence of trans bodies threatens to disrupt normative sexuality through its existence outside it
 - Bourgeois powers seek the regulation of trans bodies, manifesting itself in pornographic and legislative spheres in the United States
 - As trans bodies are underrepresented in the American populous, they are proportionally overrepresented in pornography
 - This overrepresentation contributes to a country that sexualizes transness, for a predominant cultural frame of reference for “trans body” is found in porn
- Where porn regulates trans incoherence by eroticizing it, legislation regulates it by limiting its ability to exist**

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