**Bodies out/in Place? Unmapping Trans People’s Experiences in Outdoor Activities**

**Bart Bloem Herraiz**

*University of Vic – Central University of Catalunya (UVic-UCC)*

*Research Group GETLIHC, University of Vic*

*Research Group Motiva2, University Pablo de Olavide*

|  |
| --- |
| Very often queer communities grow and find refuge in urban spaces. For many of us, finding belonging as a queer person meant moving to the city and meeting other queer people. However, scrutiny over trans people's bodies in urban contexts is continuous. In contrast, I argue that many LGBTQ+ people find comfort in nature, although there is also a struggle to access it. Despite, these experiences have not been given much attention in scholarly literature. This research aims to start a conversation about what outdoor experience means for trans people: How does our perception of our bodies change when using it in adventure activities? Moreover, how is gender performed and constructed in the outdoors? The methodology follows a feminist and queer standpoint, combining the use of autoethnography with semi-structured-in-depth interviews. This research develops the idea that the outdoors offers a less-gendered space for trans people, enabling and empowering them to escape self-surveillance processes and to feel freer in their gender expression and identity. Nature was described as a less judgmental space and a place where it is possible to be ourselves. It was also portrayed as a place to escape the urban contexts’ gender normativities. In addition, I argue that spaces of resistance can be built in the outdoors and that participating in adventure activities empowers us, trans people, in our bodies. The outdoors is also seen as a safe space for trans people and unmapping these counter-geographies is aiming to claim our space in it.  |