

Excerpt from website International transgender history society,
<http://transgendersociety.yolasite.com/>

The term "Transsexual" originated in medical and psychological communities. It was defined by Harry Benjamin in his seminal book *The Transsexual Phenomenon*. He defined transsexuality on the "Benjamin Scale", with levels of intensity; "Transsexual (nonsurgical)", "True Transsexual (moderate intensity)", and "True Transsexual (high intensity)". Many transsexuals believe that to be a true transsexual, a person needs to have a desire for surgery. However, it is notable that Benjamin's moderate intensity "true transsexual" needs either estrogen or testosterone as a "substitute for or preliminary to operation." There are also people who have had sexual reassignment surgery (SRS), but do not meet the definition of a transsexual, while other people do not desire SRS, yet clearly meet Benjamin Scale definition of a "true transsexual", such as Miriam RiverThe

Writing for health professionals in the second edition of his reference work *Sexual Hygiene and Pathology* in 1965, psychiatrist John F. Oliven of Columbia University used the lexical compound "trans+gender" in the *Transsexualism* section of "Primary Transvestism," noting "'transgenderism' is what is meant, because sexuality is not a major factor in primary transvestism.

in the December 1969 issue of *Transvestia Magazine*, crossdressing pioneer, Virginia Charles Prince, used the term "trans-gender" to distinguish cross-dressers from gay, bisexual and transsexual people. In "Men Who Choose to Be Women," Prince wrote... "I, at least, know the difference between sex and gender and have simply elected to change the latter and not the former." Due to Prince's usage of the term "trans-gender", many people take issue with the term "transsexual".



In the mid-1970's, both "trans-gender" and "trans people" were in use as umbrella terms. In part, these terms were used in describing people who wanted to live cross-gender without sex reassignment surgery. By 1976, The term "transgenderist" was abbreviated to "TG" in most educational materials.



In 1979, Christine Jorgensen publicly rejected transsexual and instead identified herself in newsprint as a "trans-gender" saying...

"gender doesn't have to do with bed partners, it has to do with identity."

By 1984, the concept of a "transgender community" had developed, in which transgender was used as an umbrella term.