

00;00;06;01 - 00;00;09;02

Hello and welcome
to another episode of the QTcast.

00;00;09;08 - 00;00;12;05

The official podcast
for the Queer and Trans Research Lab

00;00;12;05 - 00;00;14;29

at the Mark S. Bonham Center
for Sexual Diversity Studies.

00;00;15;09 - 00;00;17;11

My name is Elliott, and I'll be your host.

00;00;17;11 - 00;00;20;04

While actually more of a co-host today.
In this episode.

00;00;20;04 - 00;00;21;24

I sat down with Rings & Tingz project

00;00;21;24 - 00;00;25;11

lead Tatiana Ferguson, project research
assistant Jade Nelsen

00;00;25;20 - 00;00;28;20

and Project Community Consultants
Eva Simone and Vanessa Carter.

00;00;29;12 - 00;00;30;21

Stay tuned to hear about the process

00;00;30;21 - 00;00;33;17

of creating research by,
with and for Black transwomen.

00;00;33;24 - 00;00;36;02

The role of community in the Rings
and Tingz project,

00;00;36;09 - 00;00;39;09

and also the general absence,
from an academic archive, of Black

00;00;39;09 - 00;00;42;16

transwomen's positive experiences,
kinship and relations.

00;00;42;29 - 00;00;45;04
Oh, and you'll get the scoop
on a dating game being developed

00;00;45;04 - 00;00;48;03
for African, Caribbean or Black transwomen coming later this year.

00;00;49;11 - 00;00;52;01
You'll also be getting to sit in
on an enlightening and open conversation

00;00;52;01 - 00;00;55;14
about love, attraction, bravery,
intergenerational guidance

00;00;55;19 - 00;00;59;12
and how community can hold and even
at times fracture a sense of identity.

00;00;59;29 - 00;01;02;22
I'm so grateful for the stories
our guests share with us in this episode,

00;01;02;22 - 00;01;04;07
and I hope you are too.

00;01;04;07 - 00;01;05;12
You can find a full transcript

00;01;05;12 - 00;01;07;09
by following the link
in the episode notes,

00;01;07;09 - 00;01;09;26
and you can find links to learn more
about the projects discussed

00;01;10;00 - 00;01;13;17
Our guests and the Queer and Trans
Research Lab in the episode notes as well.

00;01;14;03 - 00;01;15;25
Please share this episode
with your networks.

00;01;15;25 - 00;01;19;16
Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts

and follow us on Social for more.

00;01;20;05 - 00;01;21;18

Just a heads up to listeners.

00;01;21;18 - 00;01;25;03

This conversation does at times address violence against Black transwomen,

00;01;25;08 - 00;01;28;05

abusive relationships and the trauma of anti-Black racism.

00;01;28;13 - 00;01;30;22

Please take care while you listen.

00;01;30;22 - 00;01;31;26

Oh, one last thing

00;01;31;26 - 00;01;35;09

Tatiana had asked me to share for any of our listeners who may not know

00;01;35;15 - 00;01;38;26

that Tingz is an ethnic Caribbean way of saying the word things

00;01;39;16 - 00;01;40;29

OK without further delay.

00;01;40;29 - 00;01;42;19

come hang with us on the QTcast.

00;00;00;08 - 00;00;17;11

Tatiana

Hi, everyone. Tatiana Ferguson here, co-founder of the Black Queer Youth Collective, I'm also a community leader in residency for the Queer and Trans Lab. I'm here today with a few of the consultants on my project Transcending Love: Rings and Tingz. We also have the RA here, so I'll allow them to introduce themselves.

00;00;18;09 - 00;00;22;11

Tatiana

And starting with, you, Eva. How are you? Who are you?

00;00;23;00 - 00;00;42;20

Eva

Well. I'm just me. My name is Eva Simone. I'm a trans advocate and performing artist. Those things are kind of like. Phasing out, and I'm looking for where I'm going to land next.

00;00;42;20 - 00;00;53;28

Eva

But at the moment, they're still one of the things. My advocacy is around HIV aids and gender diversity.

00;00;53;28 - 00;00;55;22

Eva

And I think that's it.

00;01;01;06 - 00;01;06;00

Tatiana

We also have Vanessa, Vanessa Carter

00;01;07;01 - 00;01;16;25

Vanessa

Hi, guys. Vanessa Carter, I'm a peer leader of production skills and I'm a trans advocate for everything black.

00;01;18;25 - 00;01;22;11

Tatiana

Work or a museum?

00;01;23;22 - 00;01;40;09

Jade

Hi, I'm working on some things are a part of the bottom center for a secular society. I'm finishing my undergraduate. Are you a double majoring in history on sexual diversity studies?

00;01;43;25 - 00;01;59;12

Tatiana

So, yeah, we're excited to talk a little bit more about the transcending love, race and Things project, our development process, our hopes, dreams, aspiration from things we've been learning throughout this process. And yeah, I really just spend some time with Elliot in the lab.

00;01;59;22 - 00;02;00;20

Tatiana

And yes.

00;02;01;06 - 00;02;12;28

Elliott

I'm so happy to be here with all of you. Thank you so much. Maybe before we get into the thick of it, Tatyana, would you mind just giving our listeners another rundown of what rings and taste is, what they can expect from the project?

00;02;12;28 - 00;02;16;07

Elliott

And then if we just want to jump into a little bit about the development story, that would be awesome.

00;02;17;14 - 00;02;33;21

Tatiana

So are so transcending love brings some things in the community that project that examined the experiences of, or I should say, the key motivators for African, Caribbean and black trans women as they negotiate relationships and about how we're exploring the themes of sex, love and marriage.

00;02;33;21 - 00;02;51;14

Tatiana

And this project among trans women, black trans women who are single in relationships or married in a very innovative way. Your digital technology is using our six approaches, and it's very much like community and form. So I have four consultants that's helping me to shape the project.

00;02;51;24 - 00;03;05;27

Tatiana

The study is live. It went live last year, last November, and we're still collecting data on African, Caribbean or black trans women in Canada. So that's a little bit about the project and what we hope to do with the findings.

00;03;07;09 - 00;03;16;06

Elliott

Amazing, thank you so much. Can I just ask a question about relationship, is it being defined romantically or our platonic relationships being explored as well?

00;03;17;24 - 00;03;35;16

Tatiana

Yeah, I think for us when we think about relationship, it's it's multifaceted, so there's a lot of self determination, you know, and relationship dynamics look different. So it's it's sexual relationship, it's non-sexual relationships, but it is intimate. It does involved element of intimacy.

00;03;35;16 - 00;03;47;12

Tatiana

We're not looking so much at friendship and social relationships. We're looking at how folks are developing or exploring relationships through sex, love and marriage in this project with others.

00;03;48;21 - 00;03;57;12

Elliott

Awesome. And, Evan, Vanessa, would you both mind telling me a little bit about your experience as a consultant in this project and what some of the conversations you've been having are?

00;04;01;22 - 00;04;02;17

Vanessa
Before you go.

00;04;03;15 - 00;04;22;06

Eva

I always seem to be the one that's jumping in, so I wanted to give you that opportunity to jump it, but I'm fine with going first. Well, the project so far we've had like really just off the cuff.

00;04;25;08 - 00;04;57;20

Eva

Conversations that really explore the idea of how trans women in particular experience relationships and how how sometimes they can be. They can be non-conventional in the way that we experience relationships as well as conventional and and that looks like the kind of barriers that we come up against as as mostly black and immigrant people and the kind

00;04;57;20 - 00;05;14;24

Eva

of biases that comes with with those states and intersection into intersectionality. I should add that it's very interesting to me to hear each of our own experiences, as well as the kind of anecdotal experiences of our peers.

00;05;18;06 - 00;05;46;05

Vanessa

But for me, this experience have taught me that my love language is tight. I would thought it would have been a material thing, but my love language is touch and that stuff and also how other people see this and see their self, their spouse and the people that they attract and how they go about their lives interacting

00;05;46;05 - 00;05;56;26

Vanessa

with each and the dating pool and how it how hard it is and how sorry, how difficult it is in a trans woman and dating.

00;06;01;02 - 00;06;06;07

Elliott

Amazing, thank you. Jane, can I ask a little bit about your experience as an R.A. on this project?

00;06;07;24 - 00;06;32;18

Jade

Yeah, and my experience has been pretty awesome, at least for me. I've been learning a lot and how to go through the process of creating a project like this, and this is really different from some of the Orthodox academic with this system, which is very much community based, which I think is pretty awesome.

00;06;33;02 - 00;06;59;15

Jade

And it's been really interesting learning about how to create focus groups, how to create new surveys and thinking about who you're focusing on and how to create that data. And it's also been just really interesting to hear about experiences, especially when we're having our meetings and also learning a language which has been pretty cool.

00:06:59;15 - 00:07;10;28

Jade

And yeah, honestly, I've just it's been a really awesome learning experience for me. And it's cool that I found to work hands on as well, not just listening but actually doing things to.

00:07;12;13 - 00:07;18;11

Elliott

Amazing, thank you. And, Tatyana, last but certainly not least, what's your experience been like as the project lead for this?

00:07;19;29 - 00:07;39;11

Tatiana

We have an amazing. I'm challenging myself to be more innovative with how I engage community in this work and what this community really mean for me. So there are, I think it's a combination of things. So we we did the literature review and environmental scan.

00:07;39;19 - 00:08;00;17

Tatiana

So this is very much using existing knowledge on on experiences, but also hounding in on the things that's often admitted or missing from research. We've had a lot of conversations about a paradigm. And it was a big part of our work actually was unpacking what does that mean?

00:08;00;28 - 00:08;26;07

Tatiana

Cut you black and beautiful? Like how does that like? What are the standards or the expectations of black trans women and how that could intersect with racism? How it could intersect with misogyny could intersect with transphobia when? Black trans women's identity is always being juxtaposed next to other identity for specific gender people next to white people next

00:08;26;08 - 00:08;40;20

Tatiana

to non-black people. And yeah, I think it's been a very innovative process and I'm still being very creative when I think about knowledge translation. I've been talking a lot about this dating game, and the dating game is what you expect.

00:08;40;21 - 00:08;57;27

Tatiana

I think a lot of times people will want that. You know, that quick fix the match, the matchmaker, the know this thing isn't going to be like that, but it's going to really use the evidence that has been gathered to inform the community, as well as to continue to raise awareness about issues that affect this demographic of

00;08;57;27 - 00;08;58;09

Tatiana
women.

00;09;00;05 - 00;09;08;17

Elliott

Not so exciting, and if I may ask, what's the timeline going to be for the dating game or is it still in development? Like how much can you share for our listeners right now?

00;09;09;09 - 00;09;29;12

Tatiana

Yeah, like it's still very much in development. There are several concepts that I'm exploring at the moment, but I hope the launch and I will be actually testing it with the Trans Youth Group at a partner. Working is not really a partner organization, but as an organization that I've worked with in the past provide my team that

00;09;29;12 - 00;09;48;19

Tatiana

is in Canada. So there's a trans youth group and one of the coordinators have invited me here to do a workshop and I was like, Oh, this is a good opportunity for me to see how people respond to one of the suggestions or one or two suggestions for the dating scene without using the actual research findings.

00;09;48;19 - 00;09;59;17

Tatiana

But the general concept? So yeah, but the actual game with what should be going like this spring? Yeah, I hope folks are interested in engaging in this experience with us.

00;10;00;14 - 00;10;15;09

Elliott

I'll make sure to keep our listeners up to date informed on that so they can they cannot miss that because I'm sure they won't want to. I want to circle back for a second to something that you had said about both the unorthodox and the Orthodox ways that trans women navigate relationships.

00;10;15;10 - 00;10;17;26

Elliott

I was wondering if you could just give a little bit more detail on that.

00;10;18;21 - 00;11;00;03

Eva

Well, in in the in the Orthodox way it's centered around, it's usually centered around suspect identities and how those either are seen as heterosexual from a heterosexist lens or heterosexual lens and or queer lens and sometimes trans trans relationships and more more beyond the intersections of being trans.

00;11;00;17 - 00;11;18;26

Eva

It's it's it's more diverse in the way that we experience relationships that I know. I know a lot of trans women who date other trans women and or cis that I know of trans women who date exclusively cis, that men.

00;11;19;08 - 00;11;37;27

Eva

I know of trans folks who date, set and trans men. So there's a diversity in the way that we experience relationships and it will it will kind of shape the way that we experience that and how we we navigate or relationships.

00;11;39;20 - 00;11;49;05

Elliott

It was beautiful, thank you. And this next question, I just want to toss out to the whole group. Vanessa, if you want to jump in and answer first. More than welcome to you, but I don't want to put you on the spot.

00;11;49;22 - 00;11;54;12

Elliott

I am just wondering generally what is something that you hope to learn and or teach through this project?

00;11;57;01 - 00;12;21;09

Vanessa

I would love for everyone to. Know that love is fluid, and there's no rule out right there. We can all love each other what our plan coming back from in the Caribbean and the roles are very heterosexual coming up here, it has opened my mind to really think about.

00;12;22;16 - 00;12;34;18

Vanessa

Given somebody else that you want see as a potential man, I love her a chat and I found out myself that I'm very attracted to trans men.

00;12;40;07 - 00;13;04;20

Tatiana

Right. Yeah, I think that's I think it's interesting, like the Mesosphere, if you get some exploration, there are common notions of, you know. What trans woman's experiences in general, but as you when you enter, when that interacts with blackness, it's like we're where this project is really centering those experiences and there is fluidity, fluidity and gender in

00;13;04;20 - 00;13;23;24

Tatiana

gender roles, in positions and ways people are in those relationships. So I think it was important for this project to explore that. Like whilst they are, I would say our findings suggest there is some heteronormativity at play. There's also variety.

00;13;23;24 - 00;13;46;05

Tatiana

So there are trans women who also identify as non-binary. So even trans womanhood is not singular. There is this range, and we also explore some of the surgical procedures that sometimes people are. I think that's where the conversation often goes and we talk about trans people and there are trans people who don't desire surgical intervention, whereas there are

00;13;46;05 - 00;14;03;27

Tatiana

some who have got it and others who are in that process. So I think it's been a unique way of us capturing all of this rich information on like sex and sexuality, on dating preferences and really using community voice to inform how we collect that information.

00;14;04;20 - 00;14;28;12

Eva

Can I can I just jump in for a minute? What Tatiana said about how the focus usually is is the journey of transitioning when people here try, and so people sometimes conflate the the trans prefix to mean that of necessity, people will.

00;14;29;19 - 00;15;03;10

Eva

And this is this is the verbiage that I also hear from people outside of community is transformed. And that means an action of a process of modifying bodies to fit the Orthodox kind of sex and gender identity. The focus is usually on that when the trans part is, from my perspective, is is a journey and it looks

00;15;03;10 - 00;15;26;29

Eva

like a different journey for different people. Some people don't have no expectations of modifying their body through surgeries and or medical interventions. And some people do, because that is important to them. It's it's it's each their own journey.

00;15;27;15 - 00;15;39;11

Eva

And it shouldn't. It shouldn't. I. I would like for people to take it away from that act of transitioning and more about the person's personal journey.

00;15;41;05 - 00;15;54;12

Elliott

Absolutely right, and it's also like as if says, people never transform in certain ways, right, like there is, and that's not a real binary. Yeah, yeah. Thank you for saying that. So I mean, this is something that we've we've obviously all been talking about.

00;15;54;12 - 00;16;04;03

Elliott

But I'm wondering, what are some of the other conversations that you've been speaking around when you're developing this project? Or maybe what are some of the ones that you hope to address further in the future?

00;16;07;11 - 00;16;32;11

Tatiana

For me, ideally, I think that's the reality of violence against black trans women. I think oftentimes conversations as well as research focused more on homicides than previous activities that was committed against black trans women. So I think there is that component of violence and intervention that is of interest to me.

00;16;32;17 - 00;16;52;07

Tatiana

I'm also I was very impressed with the conversations that we have been having around anti-Black racism and how that affects mental health. You know, it's very much connected to how folks show up in community, how folks show up when they're dating and the expectations that come.

00;16;52;10 - 00;17;09;04

Tatiana

So the fetishism or the assumptions, the stereotypes that come when you're dating as a black trans person and it's, you know, you can do your Google searches up against those stereotypes if you're interested in that. But yeah, it's going beyond that.

00;17;09;04 - 00;17;21;29

Tatiana

Going beyond the feelings of objectification and fetishism are really looking at like, what are the key qualities, you know, single women are looking for? And for some, it might be finances. You know, girl, you're trying to get paid.

00;17;22;16 - 00;17;38;25

Tatiana

But for others, it's like, you know, it's love, it's it's commitment. As Vanessa shared, like, you know, we did the there is this love language quiz and I did that quiz to see our folks having this conversation and what your love language is might not be what you think it is.

00;17;39;20 - 00;18;02;25

Tatiana

And yeah, like, I think it's important that we not make assumptions that trans people do need support financially and otherwise because of some of the social and systemic issues. But beyond that, we are looking for holistic care. They're looking for someone maybe to spend time with enjoy quality and not so much to be exploited sexually.

00;18;03;27 - 00;18;23;24

Tatiana

So I think those are things that I'm interested in exploring further. We did ask questions specifically about experiences of violence in the survey as well as seeking help. And I'm interested in examining the responses to both of those questions and potentially developing something that's going to reduce violence against black trans women.

00;18;26;22 - 00;18;49;24

Vanessa

And also, there's this push for the last ten years with trans women really expressing their styles and taking it from a place of being at a size and being ostracized into the forefront. And we've been proud to up who we are and as the beautiful, gorgeous Christians we are.

00;18;50;10 - 00;19;12;11

Vanessa

And we're not afraid to speak our minds and say, this is what I want. This is what I'm looking for and I'm not going to settle for anything else. Unwanted things I like is that trans women are loving their selves first, getting to know their selves first in order for them to really know who they want to

00;19;12;11 - 00;19;15;07

Vanessa

be partner in life later on down the line.

00;19;20;15 - 00;19;47;25

Eva

So. Also, the idea that where author. And we're not just humans having a human experience. You know, the the idea that we're at something other, that human or be cut or or wanting to be something that we're not and we're just humans or having human experiences like everybody else.

00;19;50;07 - 00;19;57;29

Vanessa

I mean, who don't want to be loved and cared for, and they're seen as the beautiful gorgeous that they are.

00;19;59;28 - 00;20;18;09

Elliott

Love is everything. Literally, it's it's all over, you have just you just to address this question, but I'm wondering if there's anything else that the four of you would like to say, like what do you wish people knew more about when it comes to dating and navigating relationships as an African, Caribbean and black trans woman from the

00;20;18;09 - 00;20;19;16

Elliott

development of this project?

00;20;20;27 - 00;20;43;04

Eva

From my personal experiences, the intersectional lens always takes precedence because people make assumptions about those, except those intersections. We spoke about this in the project of how even in communities there's there, sometimes even in transit community, there's some.

00;20;44;19 - 00;21;07;27

Eva

Are lateral violence that happens in community around how trends someone is, how woman someone is and someone is, and how that either advantages someone or makes them more vulnerable even with a community? And Tatiana, we've all had this.

00;21;08;12 - 00;21;16;04

Eva

This conversation around a roll looks as they, I call it, we're going to.

00;21;16;04 - 00;21;16;21

Vanessa

Be part of.

00;21;17;09 - 00;21;34;17

Eva

The I hate that term. Yes, I try not to use it because it's such it's such a divisive and and and unnecessary term. People show up in the bodies that they they come into the world, into parties that they know.

00;21;34;18 - 00;21;57;01

Eva

None of us choose the bodies. And sometimes there's an alignment with with the bodies that we're in and our gender identity. And we're learning through the experience the multiple experiences of trans people that there's sometimes there's a misalignment and that's all there.

00;21;58;08 - 00;22;16;15

Eva

If if everyone got to choose their bodies before they came to the Earth plane, then we'd all be there would be no transness, so to speak, because I would have chosen a body that is is female sex rather than male sex.

00;22;17;07 - 00;22;46;09

Eva

And but back to the point that I was making, I felt the lateral violence that happened, how trans people in general, but more specifically, trans women are policed around the way they look. And how if someone looks more pills to suspect a woman than they navigate differently than someone who does?

00;22;47;06 - 00;23;18;06

Eva

And that that is not external to community, but sometimes it's operational in community where we project onto trans women and black trans women. How how are you, how much woman you are or not? And if you if you choose not to have surgical and medical intervention around your transness, then you're not trans, you're not a trans woman

00;23;18;06 - 00;23;23;00

Eva

, you're not really attractive. So those are some of the things that we spoke about.

00;23;25;03 - 00;23;37;21

Tatiana

I have a few other things to add, but I wonder, Vanessa, is there any thing that's like fresh on your mind in regards to like some of the conversations we've been having? In this development process.

00;23;39;00 - 00;24;03;10

Vanessa

Well, I had a conversation yesterday with some, some trans women that I know from the community and also from back home. And we had a discussion about. If we had known ourselves as we know ourselves now, if we were to choose the partners that we had, a lot of us had violent partners back then and a lot

00;24;03;10 - 00;24;22;06

Vanessa

of us came into this game feeling, ah, or just the other generation taking care of men and then women, very often pushing many girls to again think that the guys abandon them are get up in abuse throughout this relationship.

00;24;22;15 - 00;24;43;27

Vanessa

And I have to say that it's our past experience that makes us the strong trans women we are today. But unfortunately, we get that well. Fortunately, we are in the position now to teach the younger generation that to love yourself and that you deserve the best, and no one needs to put their hand on you to prove

00;24;43;27 - 00;24;44;23

Vanessa

that they love you.

00;24;45;23 - 00;25;05;02

Tatiana

Yeah. Yeah, I'm actually reflecting on, I guess, something here, I think it's it's like a double edged sword. What I'm observing in the study so far in that there's been, as you can see, a lot of discussions about beauty and beauty standards and how folks show up.

00;25;05;29 - 00;25;26;26

Tatiana

And that actually had. Cost me a day to think about, well, how are you know, how how's this information being collected in other projects and how like, how is gender dysmorphia or body image? How, how, how are these things being measured?

00;25;27;05 - 00;25;45;08

Tatiana

And we didn't find any that really spoke to the issues that were mentioned in regards to, you know, maybe blackness and passing privilege or what it means to be perceived as cisgender or you know what it means to have your your gender be questioned all the time.

00;25;45;25 - 00;26;02;00

Tatiana

So I think there's like this. There's this element that I'm still very fascinated by, like the thin line between gender affirmation, because on one hand, folks are very proud and confident and, you know, they embrace who they are.

00;26;02;09 - 00;26;17;18

Tatiana

But on the other hand, there's also this element of gender dysphoria where there are elements that folks are uncomfortable with. And all of it has to do with your overall presentation. So I think that's something that I'm very fascinated about.

00;26;17;19 - 00;26;34;14

Tatiana

And while it's not part of our entire project design, something else that really, I think stood out for me was the conversations that we had around who has influenced people's perception of their gender. And many of the consultants really reflected on their moms.

00;26;34;25 - 00;26;55;24

Tatiana

So the relationship of trans miss and motherhood, and some people don't have those relationships with their parents. You know, some people become estranged when they come out or transition. But to know that or to hear that the consultants felt so I'm so proud of their mom like their mom, represent these essence of femininity that they wanted to

00;26;55;24 - 00;27;19;03

Tatiana

embrace. And kind of. I guess Mimic was was something that I think is very reassuring because I think we don't all to talk about that too. I think when it due to, you know, LGBTQ homelessness, we often talk about the families that are broken and the tougher relationships we have.

00;27;19;09 - 00;27;39;23

Tatiana

We have yet to explore, like what does a positive relationship with parents look like? And in this case, for trans women, what does our mother daughter reunion in this new state look like? Because I think there's also that, you know, it's a journey for everyone and some people's moms, you know, may be more accepting now compared to

00;27;39;23 - 00;27;53;23

Tatiana

when they first came out. Some people may have not had opportunity to make those amends, but I think it's still a discussion worth having. And yeah, I mean, I don't know. I really don't know where if someone's going to take that work on.

00;27;54;04 - 00;28;13;15

Tatiana

But I think that was a nice, complimentary discussion that we were having in this project. And, Jane, I don't know, do you want to talk a little bit about, I guess what the experience has been trying to find survey measures to address the concerns that were raised in the project?

00;28;17;14 - 00;28;22;13

Jade

Yeah, sorry. Could you just define what you mean by a supreme measures.

00;28;23;20 - 00;28;33;17

Tatiana

The sort of measures like in terms of, I think, attractiveness and the. I think we have to create a new scale. What we were, we had reference a few different ones.

00;28;35;21 - 00;28;54;21

Jade

Yeah, I remember one of our meetings, we it was almost the entire meeting we talked about. When we're asking these questions, how do we ask them, you know? So I think one of the answers we're like, Rate your attractiveness or how do you feel about yourself?

00;28;55;01 - 00;29;19;08

Jade

You know, one of the answers was possibly like, what? Why does it matter? And then others were like, Oh, I'm beautiful. And then others were like, I feel perfect. So I think we had to we thought really deeply about the words that in the choices we use and then how that might affect the answers in liquids.

00;29;19;08 - 00;29;42;13

Jade

And I think we did leave a box of like self-described so you can create your own authentic answer if one of those doesn't doesn't fit. But I think when we look at the survey of the respondents so far, the answers are just so wide and different and it really speaks to like we were just how different we

00;29;42;13 - 00;29;49;22

Jade

perceive ourselves. So that was really cool to see in the surveys, and we talk a lot about that in a meeting, which is.

00;29;54;01 - 00;30;00;15

Elliott

I just want to toss this out to everyone. Is there anything that sticks out as the most surprising thing that you've been captured about this project so far?

00;30;02;23 - 00;30;12;17

Vanessa

My sexual identity, all of my life, I thought I was transgender, which I am, but I'm also realized and I'm also non-binary.

00;30;17;23 - 00;30;23;07

Elliott

That's amazing, Vanessa, if you wouldn't mind sharing just a little bit about that self-discovery if you're comfortable.

00;30;24;05 - 00;30;48;01

Vanessa

Yeah, I mean, like. As as Tatiana was touching on about how we see ourselves and how we navigate the world, and that's our stuff, I'm always the person that I'm always glammed up and full and, you know, but I'm at home and I'm not walking through my neighborhood, living my everyday life.

00;30;48;12 - 00;31;11;26

Vanessa

I don't have on no plastic, no bag, no makeup, no air is that you have a good app. Attest to this God. I met her the other day and I get hit on more when I look, when I perceive myself licking my worst because when I'm glad that the guys stay still part of our group.

00;31;12;03 - 00;31;33;18

Vanessa

They don't come and talk to me. But when I am like a regular regular person walking through and getting to where I get hit on, I'm ready to meet Tatiana. Look at Thinkstation at this Caribbean man came to me that we had a whole conversation for like 20 hour, a half an hour.

00;31;34;01 - 00;31;51;22

Vanessa

And he never asked me my sexuality or anything like that. I don't know what his perception was of me. But for me, it was a normal conversation and we paid our families and that fit. And I realize, you know what?

00;31;52;06 - 00;32;03;04

Vanessa

Yes, I may be transgender, but transgender. I'm also non-binary. I don't see myself. I guess trans. I see myself as just in.

00;32;06;29 - 00;32;13;07

Elliott

Thanks for sharing that there was anything else. Anything else come up from anyone else, that's especially surprising so far.

00;32;14;24 - 00;32;34;11

Eva

It's not such a surprise for me. It's just a reminder that nothing is a monolith, no one, no group of people, no, no, no one is the most of it. And again, I go back to this idea of journey and not a destination.

00;32;35;02 - 00;32;57;02

Eva

And there are for some people, there are many iterations of of self in that journey. Surely, as Vanessa stated, we're all on a journey learning and learning something about self and other. And it looks like different things to different people.

00;32;57;02 - 00;33;27;08

Eva

And that's OK. And you know this. I remember I remember how hard it was for me to accept my transmis coming from Jamaica. And in a time in the era when you're either heterosexual and gay and there's no there's no diversity in those pale poles in terms of gender and sexual identity.

00;33;28;25 - 00;33;45;25

Eva

So I grew up always being told no one bothered to ask me. I'm who I was and how I was experiencing life, they looked at me, a very famous child had no option than to be fans and just decided I was gay.

00;33;45;26 - 00;34;04;04

Eva

And people told me that I was gay all my life, so I grew up until I won't say until about how old I still 30. And just think until I came, I migrated here and then I'm looking around and I'm I'm.

00;34;04;15 - 00;34;32;26

Eva

I'm in a place where I'm freer in terms of expressing myself and and and living my truth in terms of sexual orientation and. And then it hits me. What I was told I I was was not connecting with how I see myself, the community, and it took me a long time to to be brave enough to accept

00;34;32;26 - 00;34;47;29

Eva

my transness because I came into a place where it should be, it should be more free or it should be all love. And but trans women were being seen as other. And not in a in a positive light, always.

00;34;47;29 - 00;35;04;12

Eva

And it took me a while to to even though I've always had the notions that I was not a boy. I didn't know how to name it, but it took me a long time, a long time to kind of claim my transness.

00;35;04;28 - 00;35;12;13

Eva

And that was kind of like, still is a journey, and I still open myself to the journey of it.

00;35;16;16 - 00;35;23;08

Elliott

Thank you so much for sharing that. That's beautiful and really resonates with me. Tatyana, did you want to? Oh yeah, go ahead.

00;35;24;03 - 00;35;45;20

Jade

If I might say, I think one of the things that really popped out. I'm sorry, my cat really popped out to me was in my research not only how little research there is on the experiences of black trans women, but the research that I did.

00;35;45;20 - 00;36;03;12

Jade

She was always like, talk to you on a talked about was always in such a negative light. So the violence, the pain, and just kind of like all of the negative experiences. But I really couldn't find anything on the positive parts of being a black trans woman.

00;36;04;05 - 00;36;25;04

Jade

So nothing about love, nothing about family, nothing about really positive community. If it was talking about a positive community, it was a positive community in response to something violent or something terrible. So that's one thing that really popped out to me doing all of my lit reviews in my research.

00;36;26;20 - 00;36;27;01

Jade

Yeah.

00;36;31;19 - 00;36;53;21

Tatiana

There are very few things I think that really stand out to me, like obviously, I'm leaving this project, so I think the fact that it is very community led, it's not me assuming what community needs are. I am relying heavily on the insights from my consultants to help me put things into context, like when we talk about

00;36;53;21 - 00;37;15;29

Tatiana

attraction, what does that really mean? Like, where? Where does the discomfort is coming from? When we talk about expectations, you know, those key motivators, whether it's financial or otherwise like, where's that coming from? We have had conversations about, you know, black trans women and sex work, but we also didn't want to prioritize that because that would come

00;37;15;29 - 00;37;39;13

Tatiana

under. If you are motivated, I think we're capturing like sex working in a way that's. Not stigmatizing. So some folks are some folks don't consider their clients, their lovers, so that's

a very different ballgame. So that's different. We've also have conversations about risk factors, you know, like HIV exposure and SBI exposure.

00;37;39;23 - 00;37;58;27

Tatiana

And I think all of that information is very important. But what really what I'm most impressed by and what I'm really looking forward to examining further is, like I said, violence prevention because as Vanessa shared, like a lot of trans women may be experiencing violence or they may be in toxic relationships, but they feel like they have

00;37;58;27 - 00;38;22;25

Tatiana

no other choice. So they stay and they just endure abuse that sometimes often result in. And, you know, unfortunate loss of life. But we are opportunities for sisters then to intervene. Where are opportunities for it, for change, to help to change people's perception of what is a healthy relationship?

00;38;23;05 - 00;38;35;21

Tatiana

Someone doesn't have to be abusive to you or feel like they own you for you to fill out. I'm really supporting folks through that because I think a lot of that is really linked to the trauma like anti-Black racism and mental health.

00;38;35;21 - 00;38;50;14

Tatiana

If you experience so much rejection from your family, then obviously you're you're more tolerant of of abuse. Not for everyone. But I would say usually there becomes more tolerance because if we normalize you, you've accepted this as something that's normal.

00;38;50;24 - 00;39;12;19

Tatiana

I'd like to have someone, whether it's professional or clinician, a peer support worker, but have someone really say like, no like you. You have all of this potential. You don't have to tolerate that. I think a change, the trajectory that trans women are, a lot of trans women are on and also give them options for them to

00;39;12;19 - 00;39;30;02

Tatiana

know like, OK, this is what I'm experiencing. If I don't like this, then I know that I can go to community or I can access these resources for help. I think those are some of the things that I that's surprising and that I really hope to examine further, because it's still we're still in the process of collecting

00;39;30;02 - 00;39;32;02

Tatiana

more information. Yeah.

00;39;33;12 - 00;39;46;13

Elliott

Thank you. If if our listeners want to support this project, is there any way for them to do so? Is there anything you need from people at this stage in development? Or should I just drop a link in the episode notes and have people check it out online?

00;39;47;19 - 00;40;03;15

Tatiana

Yeah, I think definitely there's while we're still doing recruitment, we want to have a diverse sample. I think another thing that's a bit surprising but not so much surprise them is the fact that our our our community engagement has been relatively young.

00;40;04;05 - 00;40;12;24

Tatiana

So if we are, you know, all the trans folks or seasoned of the team like, say, no one wants to be called old clothes, get older people.

00;40;13;07 - 00;40;14;25

Vanessa

But if there are.

00;40;14;25 - 00;40;20;02

Tatiana

Transients who are over the age of 50 or even over the age, mature.

00;40;20;02 - 00;40;23;01

Vanessa

Transwomen, whatever it is.

00;40;23;23 - 00;40;38;14

Tatiana

If they are these women in Canada that will be interested in and talking about, you know, what their experience is being, you know, aging as a woman and growing in love or, you know, disconnecting, prioritizing their own love life.

00;40;39;08 - 00;40;57;09

Tatiana

We'd love to engage them in this study because our study is being pretty young. You can find more information by contacting me. By email can be provided. Yeah, sharing our materials like we would really love to engage more transwomen in these very important discussions about sex, love and marriage.

00;40;59;08 - 00;41;13;15

Elliott

Fantastic, thank you. Yeah, you'll be able to find links to all of that in the episode notes, wherever you're listening to this right now. So please make sure to click and check out. And we're coming up on an hour, and I don't want to take up too much more of everyone's time, but I just wanted to open

00;41;13;15 - 00;41;29;29

Elliott

the floor. If there's anything that you didn't get to discuss today that you hope to discuss. Feel free to jump in. Or if not, I was hoping we could end on a light and fun note. So if anyone has anything joyful or wonderful that happened to them that they wanted to share, or alternatively, if anyone here has

00;41;29;29 - 00;41;34;06

Elliott

any advice for our listeners on love and dating, I'm always welcome.

00;41;36;19 - 00;41;55;16

Vanessa

Love yourself first. Why not, what makes you you? And then in turn. Love that you can find that person that you think that you really want to be? Need to be. And also, I'm going to the sex reassignment.

00;41;55;16 - 00;41;58;12

Eva

Surgery, so. Also.

00;41;59;14 - 00;42;00;17

Elliott

I think you lots of love.

00;42;01;19 - 00;42;34;14

Eva

And some positive energy. I'll jump in then. But what I want to end with. We get to determine. How we love and who we are, and sometimes that looks like Orthodox, sometimes on Orthodox, and it's okay. And the the the only caveat to that is that you find we find compatibility, someone who wants what we have to

00;42;34;14 - 00;42;59;19

Eva

give and we want and we have what we we have what they want as well. And no one gets to tell anyone how they should know and who they should love. It's just compatibility and two or more people who find compatibility.

00;43;02;28 - 00;43;07;01

Tatiana

So beautiful that you have any closing thoughts or remarks.

00;43;08;20 - 00;43;22;11

Jade

And I think I'll I'll echo what Vanessa and Edith said, but also value yourself. And I think that's one thing I learned in this is before you can love yourself, before you can do anything you need to give you.

00;43;22;15 - 00;43;27;29

Jade

You need to recognize your own value and celebrate that. Yeah.

00;43;29;15 - 00;43;49;22

Tatiana

And on that note, Black History Month is approaching, and we will be continuing this discussion or having a similar discussion, I should say, around black love, sex and sexuality. So stay tuned to that. And then you can visit the website to find out the exact date and DVD's of AP, and I'm delighted to share our information this

00;43;49;22 - 00;43;59;17

Tatiana

spring. So for me, the main pieces of advice, stay tuned. And if you enjoy this content, if you enjoy this type of discussion, please show out.

00;44;02;24 - 00;44;13;25

Elliott

Gorgeous, thank you so much for that. Eva, Vanessa, Jade, Tatiana, this has been beautiful. My heart is full. I hope that our listeners are as thrilled as I am and make sure you check back and engage with this project.

00;44;14;24 - 00;44;15;27

Elliott

Thank you all very much.

00;44;16;22 - 00;44;18;25

Vanessa

Thank you, Harriette. Thank you so much.

00;44;18;25 - 00;44;19;08

Jade

For having.

00;44;19;08 - 00;44;19;16

Elliott

Us.

00;44;20;06 - 00;44;20;17

Tatiana

This is.

00;44;20;17 - 00;44;32;18

Elliott

Amazing. Oh, also if anyone wants to drop social handles or email, if you want our listeners to be able to contact you, feel free to let me know you can provide them to Tatiana and she can email them to me or not.

00;44;32;18 - 00;44;39;08

Elliott

If you want to stay relatively anonymous, that's OK, too. And I'll keep you posted as they edit and post us.

00;44;41;17 - 00;44;42;06

Vanessa

On where.

00;44;42;14 - 00;44;47;06

Tatiana

You are, like how you start recording, what do you think I?