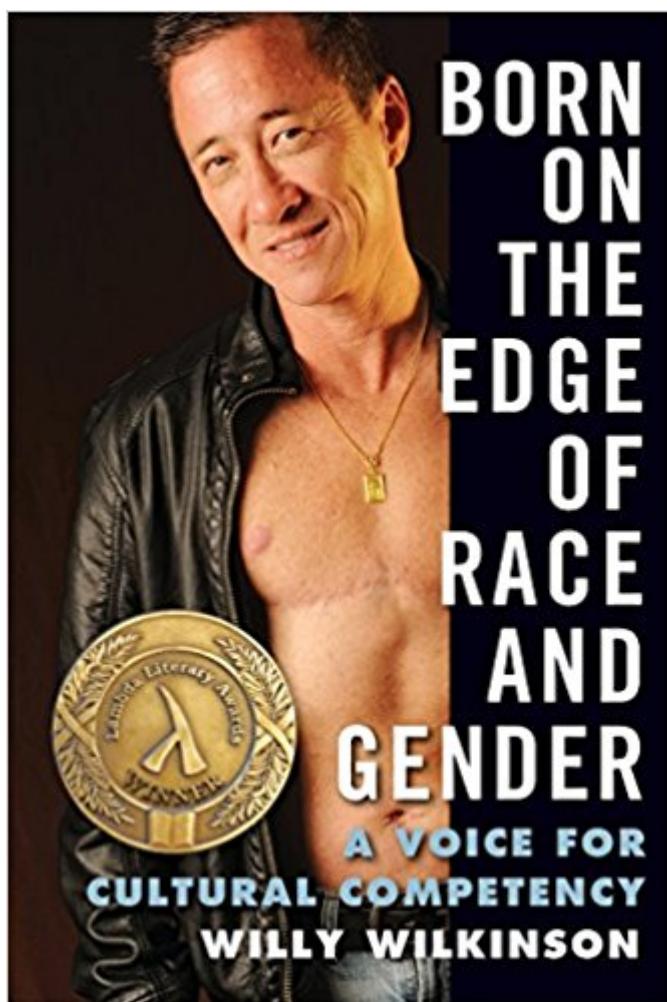


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Born On The Edge Of Race And Gender: A Voice For Cultural Competency



Synopsis

In this historic moment of transgender visibility in the U.S., writer, activist, and public health consultant Willy Wilkinson's *Born on the Edge of Race and Gender: A Voice for Cultural Competency* uses the power of storytelling to contextualize one of the most misunderstood social issues of our time. This poetic, journalistic memoir shines an intersectional beacon on the ambiguity and complexity of mixed heritage, transgender, and disability experience, and offers an intimate window into how current legislative and policy battles impact the lives of transgender people. Whether navigating the men's locker room like a "stealth trans Houdini," accessing lifesaving health care, or appreciating his son's recognition of him as a "transformer," Wilkinson compellingly illustrates the unique, difficult, and sometimes comical experiences of transgender life. A seasoned public health consultant and cultural competency trainer, Wilkinson provides practical tools and resources to help community health organizations, educational institutions, and businesses create LGBTQ- and trans-affirming systems. Innovative, moving, and accessible, this multifaceted memoir explores the liberation of finding one's voice in a world that prescribes silence, and offers a fresh look at ways to systemically affirm diversity throughout society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Born on the Edge of Race and Gender is an extraordinary work by one of the most fearless and dynamic voices of our time-a multilayered masterpiece that may well be the most accessible, lively, and honest account yet of life as a transgender man . . . Prepare to be dazzled, shaken, and amazed . . . Far more than just a memoir, this book is also a treasure trove of intersectional

research, wisdom, and practical knowledge, distilled by one of the nation's foremost experts on public health and other issues affecting transgender people, and one of the most experienced, hands-on, cultural competency trainers in our movement." -SHANNON PRICE MINTER, ESQ., Coeditor, Transgender Rights, President Obama's Commission on White House Fellowships "Willy Wilkinson's "Born on the Edge of Race and Gender offers practical, deeply insightful, and powerfully moving personal perspectives on diversity and cultural competency, drawn from his own life experiences as an Asian American trans man with decades of experience as an activist, consultant, and policy advocate working on HIV/AIDS, disability, and LGBT issues. This is a highly readable, teachable, and informative text that should appeal to queer and Asian communities, and to educators, policy makers, social workers, health care providers, and social justice activists who work with those communities." -SUSAN STRYKER, PhD, author of Transgender History, Director, Institute for LGBT Studies, University of Arizona "Awe-inspiring, daring, personable! Wilkinson brings every part of himself openly and freely to us in "Born on the Edge of Race and Gender, a timely, essential read for anyone doing cultural competency work. A first-of-its-kind in many ways, this intersectional book shows how gender and race issues interplay and highlights the issues of trans men of color, for whom the dialogue has been virtually silent."

-KYLAR W. BROADUS, ESQ., Cofounder and Executive Director, Trans People of Color Coalition

Willy Wilkinson, MPH is an award-winning, Asian American, transgender writer, public health consultant, cultural competency trainer, public speaker, and spoken word performer. Willy is the author of the book *Born on the Edge of Race and Gender: A Voice for Cultural Competency*, which transforms the memoir genre into a cultural competency tool. He has written for numerous periodicals, such as the San Francisco Chronicle and Asian Week, numerous anthologies, including Transgender Rights and Trans Bodies, Trans Selves, and journals such as Transgender Studies Quarterly. The Lambda Literary Review has described his writing as "highly evocative." Willy is the recipient of a National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association excellence in writing award, and the Transgender Law Center Vanguard Award, and is recognized on the Trans 100. A dynamic and engaging speaker who is widely known for his expertise in transgender issues, Willy has provided training and consultation services for hundreds of community health organizations, businesses, and educational institutions on how to provide equal access for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) populations. He was a key organizer of the API lesbian movement of the '80s, and organized the first peer support programs for Asian transmasculine individuals and people of color

on the female-to-male spectrum. Willy launched the Health Care Access Project at Transgender Law Center, the first program in the nation to address trans health disparities through provider training, "know your rights" workshops for community members, and advocacy for trans-competent care. Willy earned a Masters in Public Health in Community Health Education from UC Berkeley, and a BA in Women's Studies from UC Santa Cruz. He lives in Oakland, California with his three vibrant young children. Learn more at willywilkinson.com.

Born on the Edge of Race and Gender should be on every Social Studies teacher's MUST read. Mr. Wilkinson opened my eyes to the challenges that transgender people of color face in society. He was courageous in sharing the most intimate details and struggles of his childhood through the present day. Even though he was struggling with his own health issues, he still did whatever he could to help the LGBTQ community. This book is the next chapter in his efforts to promote understanding. You will not want to put it down.

Great Book and very relevant to the world today.

Somehow within one book, Wilkinson wraps up the realities and emotions that underlie the intersectionality of race, gender, disability and family dynamics. As a gender nonconforming Asian person, this is a refreshing read - and as a person with similar experiences, the words within these pages are incredibly life affirming. When thinking of how to describe what it feels like to internalize female subjugation while presenting masculine, atop of navigating the world of binary gender expectations, racial stereotyping and the always touchy subject of family shame, I find it difficult, but somehow Wilkinson does just that. Complicated and nuanced as all of that may be, he writes in a way that is understandable, personable and informative. Some of his accounts are tear jerkers for sure, but through and through there is still a coolness in his story-telling that gives off the vibe of one very important message: "Yeah I've been through s***, but that's nothing compared to how much I'll fight to be the authentic me." You will learn a lot from this book. It covers everything from healthcare access (toolkit for providers included) to love and relationships. I think the intersectionality of this text is so necessary for understanding. It reinforces the truth that to holistically know someone, you need to be competent in understanding their life experience. Wilkinson describes cultural competency as what may be my favorite definition of the phrase: "It is fundamentally about holding another being's cultural framework as authentic to them and accepting their perspective without question, judgment or revision." I think the purpose of this book is to do just this. It uses his story to

promote and encourage a deeper understanding towards people of color, trans* people, those who are differently-abled and all families. I highly encourage this read.

This book is DEFINITELY a required text for my undergraduate Diversity Seminar course! Willy makes the intersections breathe and moan and laugh in technicolor and I consider him a vital voice of his generation, across experiences and identities and social locations. Reading this book, I wept with the relief of truly being MET as a reader, especially being an "old school" Gen X genderqueer educator who grew up thinking I was utterly alone in my experiences. This book is a solid educational tool with practical relevant and current information but also a delicious personal journey. Though I'm white (and therefore have significant departures from his story) I feel like Willy retroactively accompanied me throughout awkward childhood experiences of working class queerness, launching as a young adult into the exciting vibrant lesbian communities of the 80's /early 90's, and finding myself straddling queer and trans identities with parenthood and engaging systems via our children. I'm eternally grateful for this book and author and I hope you will join me in my budding fandom ÅfÂ Å Å, Å ÆoeÅ Å

We are in the era of the ÅfÂ¢Å Å ¬Å Å“trans tipping pointÅfÂ¢Å Å ¬Å Å• and thus we have come to expect a certain type of narrative- a story of self-realization, a journey through bullying and misunderstanding, at best, and a chronicle of decisions, treatments, losses and gains, ending with success, relief and, sometimes, activism. This is not that book. This book is a much more substantial, profound exploration of intersectionality, complexity, and intentionality in how we live our lives. It is a moving, sweet, incredibly insightful lesson in how to treat ourselves, our lovers, children, friends, and strangers well, with respect, and with the acknowledgement that the journey is different for every person on this planet. It is a book everyone should read. Handily, it comes with practical, pragmatic information and resources as well as cultural competency assessment tools useful for both individuals and institutions. It should also come with Kleenex, not because it is a ÅfÂ¢Å Å ¬Å Å“Tragic Trans TaleÅfÂ¢Å Å ¬Å Å•, but because, through poetry, story telling and essays, Wilkinson shows us both human tragedy and human comedy, as well as sharing insights into how to learn from both. I will give this book as a gift to many as well as assign it in class. Thank you, Willy, for your gentleness and generosity in sharing your story.

I was profoundly impacted by this book. I am a psychotherapist who has worked with trans and gender non-conforming clients for over 25 years. Not since Jamison's Green's "Becoming a Visible

Man" have I read a book that so powerfully and thoroughly integrates the personal, social and political aspects of trans lives. I especially appreciate the focus on race and class and the emphasis on cultural competency. I was moved by Willy's courage in being so personally vulnerable as well, especially in discussing his decades long struggle with chronic illness. I have been telling everyone who might be interested to read Willy's book!

I have never resonated so much with a book before. Willy's writing is both accessible to cis folx who are looking to become more culturally competent and relatable to trans folx (especially Asian trans folx!) who are looking for stories from other people who share some of their intersecting identities. This book helped me feel not as alone and helped me settle a lot of my angst about race and gender. Would strongly recommend.

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