

4-32 Assiniboia Hall
Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada T6G 2E7
Tel: 780.248.1192
wgs@ualberta.ca
www.uab.ca/wgs

Title:

Survivor Discourse, Power, and the Silence around Transmen's Sexual Assaults

Author:

Aaron Kimberly

Abstract:

This essay examines the limits of contemporary survivor discourse through the case of Jacob Diamond, a transman who has publicly recounted experiences of sexual assault by his former partner, a transwoman. Drawing on Linda Martín Alcoff's *"To Possess the Power to Speak"* (2021) and Tanya Serisier's *"What Does It Mean to #BelieveWomen?"* (2022), I analyze how epistemic injustice, linguistic constraints, and dominant cultural discourses shape who can be recognized as a credible survivor. The essay argues that while the feminist politics of belief has expanded visibility for many survivors, it continues to exclude those whose experiences unsettle normative gendered frameworks of power. Diamond's narrative exposes how transmen's assaults remain structurally unspeakable within both feminist and trans discourses, revealing the need for a survivor politics that acknowledges embodied realities without reproducing epistemic erasure.