

Untitled*

My transition began at the age of 22, not in my hometown but in the city I chose for my future studies.

The transition procedure has been brief, overall; it began in October 2004, when I was diagnosed with gender identity disorder (or gender dysphoria). The diagnosis was immediately followed by a hormone therapy; in October 2005, I underwent gender reassignment surgery, and one year later, in October 2006, I had my identity documents amended. Following some meetings (five appointments to be precise) with a Psychologist from MIT in Bologna (so that I had to travel to Bologna every 15 days), I found it unnecessary to have any kind of psychological support.

During the process, I started attending a training course, financed by FSE as a “women’s employment project” but, since I still had my male identity documents at the time, I enjoyed the support provided by the Councillor for equal opportunities of my city of residence in order to be allowed to attend the course and overcome that formality.

Once I completed the training course, the organizing company hired me as an assistant (a job which was consistent with my diploma); also, I had to deal with other planning tasks (such as providing assistance in the company’s training programs).

My situation was not a big issue at work; I clearly remember that my employer told me that “nobody will ever notice that” while I was providing my personal data for the contract’s signing. I truly believe that I was hired with such ease thanks to my ‘fitness’ for this employment and *my* ‘presentability’, I would say. Nevertheless, this was quite a hurtful experience for me, as I could not accept the idea of using my ‘ability’ to blend in with my target gender as a sort of “preferential treatment” to get a job; By the way, in that particular occasion I took advantage of the situation by working in a (business) context that acknowledged my gender transition procedure, granting me the time I needed to undergo my gender reassignment surgery.

Later, I changed my job and I had no problems even though I have never come out as a transgender person; therefore, I have always kept the secret about this particular experience (my gender transition).

* The following self-narrative account was translated into English by Gerardo Petrillo.