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MASARYK UNIVERSITY

Body Integrity Dysphoria (BID) Symposium 2026

Bodily Autonomy, Identity, and the Limits of Medicine

Friday 16 October 2026, 15:00–18:00 (Prague / CEST)
14:00–17:00 UK / BST | 09:00–12:00 US Eastern / EDT | 22:00–01:00 Japan / JST (+1 day)

Organised by Corpus Sui z. s., as part of the **BodyIntegrityDysphoria.com Project** in collaboration with the **Department of Medical Psychology and Ethics, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University**

Event page: bodyintegritydysphoria.com/bid-symposium-2026/

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Programme

Opening Remarks: 15:00–15:10
Leandro Loriga *(Prague, Czech Republic / Corpus Sui / Masaryk University)*
Title: Welcome and Introduction
Abstract: Opening remarks introducing the aims of the symposium, the importance of Body Integrity Dysphoria as an emerging field of ethical, clinical, and social inquiry, and the need for interdisciplinary discussion across medicine, philosophy, anthropology, and lived experience.
Format: 10 minutes

Session I: 15:10–15:40
Laura Lalee *(Germany / International Psychoanalytic University Berlin)*
Title: *A Medical-Ethical Comparison of Body Integrity Dysphoria and Gender Incongruence*
Abstract: This presentation examines ethical arguments for and against the legalisation of elective amputation in individuals with Body Integrity Dysphoria. Based on a literature review, it places BID in comparative dialogue with gender incongruence, asking why some surgical interventions aimed at aligning the body with experienced bodily identity are recognised within clinical care, while others remain medically, legally, and ethically unacceptable.
Presentation: 20 minutes
Q&A: 10 minutes

Session II: 15:40–16:10
Matthew Williams *(United Kingdom / University of Birmingham)*
Title: *The Instability of BID's Disorder Classification in the ICD-11*
Abstract: This presentation examines the conceptual instability of Body Integrity Dysphoria's classification as a disorder in the ICD-11. It traces how BID has previously been framed as a paraphilic condition, an identity disorder, and a neurological disturbance, before arguing that the ICD-11's current diagnostic structure does not fully ground BID's pathological status. The presentation considers the limits of using persistent desire and distress as diagnostic criteria, while also arguing that premature depathologisation could worsen clinical neglect. It concludes by suggesting that a mechanistic taxonomy may offer a more coherent framework for BID.
Presentation: 20 minutes
Q&A: 10 minutes

Session III: 16:10–16:40
Leandro Loriga *(Prague, Czech Republic / Corpus Sui / Masaryk University)*
Title: *The Hidden Body Integrity Dysphoria Community of Japan*
Abstract: This presentation introduces qualitative research on the first known Japanese BID community, challenging the assumption that BID is primarily or exclusively a Western phenomenon. Drawing on survey data, epistolary exchanges, and supplementary ethnographic material, it explores how BID is experienced in Japan through secrecy, cultural ideals of bodily wholeness, social duty, online community, and the distinction between impairment and disability.
Presentation: 20 minutes
Q&A: 10 minutes

BREAK – 10 minutes
16:40–16:50

Session IV: 16:50–17:20
John Doe *(Independent lived experience advocate and entrepreneur / The Netherlands)*
Title: *Living with Body Integrity Dysphoria: Harm Reduction, Functioning and Long-Term Adaptation*
Abstract: This presentation explores Body Integrity Dysphoria from the perspective of lived experience and long-term adaptation. Rather than focusing primarily on diagnosis or ethics, it discusses practical strategies that have enabled me to maintain quality of life while living with persistent BID over many years.
Presentation: 20 minutes
Q&A: 10 minutes

Session V: 17:20–17:50
Dr Cassie Ogden *(United Kingdom / Liverpool John Moores University)*
Title: *Transability through the lens of biopower, disablism and neoliberalism: exposing societal contradictions around bodily autonomy and inter/dependence*
Abstract: This presentation provides sociological insight into living with transability (a term used to emphasise the focus on the lived experience above medicalised foci). From published literature and documented stories of transableism I aim to shed light on societal assumptions around identities, dis/abilities and expectations that often make the lives of transable individuals difficult.
Presentation: 20 minutes
Q&A: 10 minutes

Closing Remarks: 17:50–18:00
Leandro Loriga *(Prague, Czech Republic / Corpus Sui / Masaryk University)*
Title: Final Remarks and Next Steps
Abstract: Closing remarks summarising the symposium and outlining next steps for speaker coordination, publication possibilities, and future BID research collaboration.
Format: 10 minutes

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Speaker Abstracts & Biographies

Laura Lalee: *A Medical-Ethical Comparison of Body Integrity Dysphoria and Gender Incongruence*

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Abstract: Surgical interventions aimed at aligning the body with an individual's experienced bodily identity are increasingly part of contemporary medical practice. Gender-affirming procedures, in particular, have become an established component of clinical care. However, this acceptance does not extend to all forms of body modification. Body Integrity Dysphoria is a rare and under-researched condition in which affected individuals often experience a persistent desire for the removal of a healthy limb in order to achieve a sense of bodily wholeness. At present, such elective amputations are not considered medically indicated and are therefore generally deemed ethically and legally unacceptable.

This presentation is based on a literature review examining ethical arguments for and against the legalisation of elective amputations in individuals with BID. A particular focus is placed on a comparative analysis between BID and gender incongruence within a medical-ethical framework.

Bio: Laura Lalee completed her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at Humboldt University of Berlin and is currently a PhD candidate at the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin. Her research focuses on Body Integrity Dysphoria and the previous treatment experiences of affected individuals. Alongside her doctoral work, she lectures at IPU and at the Medical School in Brandenburg. She has contributed to the field through a CME-certified article on BID published in Nervenheilkunde and has presented her work at conferences, including the 3rd BID Congress in Hamburg.

Matthew Williams: *The Instability of BID's Disorder Classification in the ICD-11*

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Abstract: This presentation examines the conceptual instability of Body Integrity Dysphoria's classification as a disorder in the ICD-11. Before its inclusion, BID was variously framed as a paraphilic condition, an identity disorder, and a neurological disturbance. Although the ICD-11's syndromic definition attempts to unify these taxonomies, this presentation argues that its diagnostic structure fails to coherently ground BID's pathological status.

Neither of the ICD-11's two central criteria—the persistent desire for disability and the downstream distress associated with it—fully warrants the disorder label. Persistent or unusual desires are not inherently pathological, while distress criteria struggle to distinguish internally generated pathology from socially mediated suffering. BID's classification therefore inherits this instability, especially when identifying "The Wave" as a course feature. The ICD-11 appears to assume synchronicity between BID desires and distress, despite evidence suggesting that this relationship is often more complex.

However, BID depathologisation would be epistemically and institutionally premature, risking further disengagement and clinical neglect. The presentation concludes by suggesting that a mechanistic taxonomy may provide BID with its "pathological rescue".

Bio: Matthew Williams is a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham, working across the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Mental Health. His doctoral research argues for the psychiatric reconceptualisation of Body Integrity Dysphoria, enhanced clinical engagement, and the development of a risk-proportionate BID-S strategy. His broader research interests lie at the intersection of psychiatry and bioethics, including recent work on the functions of psychopharmacological interventions in ADHD. He has presented, and is scheduled to present, work at major European conferences including IDEA, IME, EACME, and INPP, and currently has multiple articles undergoing academic peer review.

Leandro Loriga PhD: *The Hidden Body Integrity Dysphoria Community of Japan*

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Abstract: Existing research on BID has been almost entirely Western-centric, leaving open the question of whether BID is genuinely a European and North American phenomenon or simply underreported elsewhere.

This presentation is based on an ongoing research collaboration, initiated in early 2024, with the first known community of people affected by Body Integrity Dysphoria in Japan. Rather than approaching BID only through existing clinical and ethical literature, it presents one of the first substantial qualitative accounts of BID from Japan, grounded in direct engagement with affected individuals and their narratives.

The research challenges the assumption that BID is a culturally localised Western condition and suggests instead that it may be a global phenomenon that remains hidden where cultural, medical, and social frameworks do not provide language for recognition. Drawing on survey responses, follow-up written exchanges, and supplementary ethnographic material from a closed online community, the presentation explores how BID is experienced in Japan.

The findings show that BID exists but remains largely concealed, shaped by cultural ideals of bodily wholeness, social duty, and public conformity. Three themes emerge: the tension between private bodily identity and public expectations, the role of online communities as spaces of recognition and risk, and the distinction between impairment and disability.

Bio: Leandro Loriga, PhD, is a medical anthropologist, bioethicist, and Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Psychology and Ethics, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University. He is the founder of BodyIntegrityDysphoria.com, the first international platform dedicated to multidisciplinary research, discussion, and community engagement on Body Integrity Dysphoria. He is also a co-founder and executive chair of Corpus Sui, a Prague-based international non-profit research and advocacy network working on ethically sensitive, often unspoken medical situations.

John Doe: *Living with Body Integrity Dysphoria: Harm Reduction, Functioning and Long-Term Adaptation*

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Abstract: This presentation explores Body Integrity Dysphoria from the perspective of lived experience and long-term adaptation. Rather than focusing primarily on diagnosis or ethics, it discusses practical strategies that have enabled me to maintain quality of life while living with persistent BID over many years. Topics include harm reduction, symptom management, work, family life, social participation, and self-developed coping strategies. The presentation argues that, although BID remains poorly understood and evidence-based treatment options are limited, meaningful improvements in daily functioning are possible through realistic management approaches. It concludes by highlighting the importance of collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience in developing future patient-centred care.

Bio: John Doe (pseudonym) is an entrepreneur, innovator, designer, TEDx speaker, and lived experience advocate with Body Integrity Dysphoria (BID). His work focuses on improving quality of life through practical innovation, user-centred design, and collaboration between people with lived experience, researchers, and healthcare professionals. For many years he has explored practical approaches to managing BID while maintaining an active professional career, family life, and social participation.

Dr Cassie Ogden: *Transability through the lens of biopower, disablism and neoliberalism: exposing societal contradictions around bodily autonomy and inter/dependence*

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Abstract: This paper provides sociological insight into living with transability (a term used to emphasise the focus on the lived experience above medicalised foci). From published literature and documented stories of transableism I aim to shed light on societal assumptions around identities, dis/abilities and expectations that often make the lives of transable individuals difficult. Lay reaction and responses to transableism often demonstrate disgust, confusion and anger (Baril, 2015; Davis, 2014) as transable individuals trouble dominant ideas of stability, unity and containment. This paper argues for a postconventionalist approach that troubles various contradictions in biomedical, scientific and dominant everyday narratives to enable better understanding and reduce stigmatisation towards transable individuals.

Bio: Dr Cassie Ogden is a critical sociologist who works as programme leader and senior lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, UK. Her PhD centred on children's experiences of chronic illness and she has published on a range of issues centred around anomalous embodiment including: women, feminism and domesticity, chronic illness, disability, transableism, body stigma and substance addiction and policy. Her recent work explores the impact of lockdown on the health and wellbeing of people living through the global pandemic in the UK.