**3. Visualizing age-differentials in LGBT social-emergence**

When we returned home, I began wondering about and reflecting on the very different ways that all those millions of LGBT people were experiencing the present . . . based on their ages and the decades when they’d become socialized. Once attuned to that idea, I couldn’t help but notice age-differentials jumping out in stories emerging in national media.

**For example:**

**7-19-13:  The Advocate: "Finding Role Models for My Trans 5-Year-Old:**

**It's a different, better world for young transgender kids", by Gendermom**

<http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2013/07/19/op-ed-finding-role-models-my-trans-5-year-old>

"Something is going on here. My theory is that we‘ve arrived at a tipping point, with a critical mass of stories coming at us through our TV sets and newspapers and Facebook posts that, taken together, are bound to give birth to new thoughts: Maybe these people really are out there in significant numbers. Maybe that little girl on Barbara Walters wasn’t the only person like that.

I shudder when I think what it would have been like five years ago. Had my child been born just a few years earlier, my local support group for parents of trans kids wouldn’t yet exist . . . My child and I would have been on our own, groping around in the dark . . .

Now there are conferences and even summer camps specifically devoted to kids like mine . . . and I’m watching the world change right before my eyes: Discussing hormone blockers with other parents of trans kids at my support group. Hearing my neighbors effortlessly shift their pronouns from male to female at my child’s request. Seeing a child like mine on the cover of a magazine that’s sold at every grocery store check-out stand across the nation.

**7-26-13: NY Daily News: "Transgender teen lovebirds find happiness with each other . . . "**

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/transgender-teens-find-happiness-article-1.1410225>

"Arin Andrews and Katie Hill seem like any young couple, but the teenagers' love story has a unique twist — they are both transgender.

The Tulsa, Okla., teens have been together for a little over a year. They met at a transgender support group while they were each transitioning to the opposite gender, and it wasn't long before they fell in love . . .

Katie, 19, was born "Luke," and struggled with gender identity from a young age . . . For 17-year-old Arin, it was the opposite . . .

Both have undergone surgery to transform their outward appearances . . .

And after years of pain, the couple seems to have finally found happiness, both with themselves and with each other.

"Being transgender myself, I understand Arin probably better than anybody else, how good he feels and how complete he feels," Katie said.

**6-07-13: CNN: "Former Navy SEAL comes out as transgender . . . "**

**(Anderson Cooper's Interview of Kristin, Part 1)**

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/07/us/transgender-veteran/index.html>

<http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2013/06/06/part-i-of-andersoncoopers-exclusive-interview-with-transgender-former-navy-seal-kristen-beck/>

"I want to have my life," she told CNN's "AC360" in an exclusive Thursday night. Beck recently came out as transgender.  She wrote about the experience in the book "Warrior Princess" . . .

It chronicles her life as a young boy and man, known then as Chris Beck. Beck deployed 13 times . . . earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart along the way.

Though she's felt trapped in the wrong body since grade school, Beck didn't come out until after she left the military in 2011. Doing so earlier would have been too big a risk. Transgender men and women are banned from service.

"That's a chance that if I took it, I might be dead today," she said. "There's a lot of prejudice out there. There's been a lot of transgender people who are killed for prejudice, for hatred . . . "

Beck says she doesn't need people to love, or even like, her. "But I don't want you to beat me up and kill me. You don't have to like me, I don't care. But please don't kill me.""

**7-12-13: Edge Boston: “New Study: LGBT Seniors Struggle with Suicide”, by Matthew S. Bajko, Bay Area Reporter**

<http://www.edgeboston.com/news/national/146904/new_study:_lgbt_seniors_struggle_with_suicide>

"Isolated from family and largely living alone, LGBT seniors in San Francisco contemplate taking their own life at an "alarming" rate, a new study has found.

It is estimated there are anywhere from 18,000 to 20,000 LGBT seniors living in San Francisco, with the population increasing each year as the median age of the city’s residents grows older.

Executive Director Eve R. Meyer said the survey finding "tragically, I think, is not surprising because for a lot of LGBT seniors the living arrangements they have enjoyed change and living independently often becomes an option not available to them and they are often forced to live in extended care facilities of one kind or another."

In such a setting many LGBT seniors are pushed back into the closet, fearful of telling staff or other residents about their sexual orientation or gender identity, noted Meyer. That can exacerbate their risk for depression, she added, causing them to consider suicide."