

## **#WontBeErased. Digital activism on Twitter**

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After multiple attacks to the freedom and rights of the transgender community, in late October this year, the Trump administration announced a new adjustment to be made concerning gender identity. In an effort to minimise recognition and protections of transgender people under federal civil rights law, the new proposal suggests narrowing down the definition of gender as a biological and immutable condition determined by the gender assigned at birth, that is to say based on the genitalia each person is born with.

The day following this announcement, the National Center for Transgender Equality organized a protest and the hashtag #WontbeErased immediately became the symbol of it. This catchphrase/hashtag represents and explains the way transgender people were feeling following this announcement. The hashtag increasingly became popular on Twitter and an emblem of the fight against gender identity discrimination. This study seeks to analyse a corpus of tweets, collected starting from October 21st 2018, and containing the hashtag. It aims at identifying the linguistic and semantic patterns used by transgender people to construct agency and represent their gender identity as social actors.

Preliminary findings show that the hashtag is now being used not only by transgender people but became a symbol through which transgender allies have been manifesting their voices. The study also shows that the hashtag, created in response to a specific event, is not being used as a more comprehensive emblem of the fight against hate and discrimination towards the transgender community. In fact, the tweets discuss a number of issues, from trans people being banned from serving in the military to policies around the use of toilets.