3 Identität, Fluidität
3 Identity, Fluidity

#Computer buzzing and beeping#
#Computer buzzing#

#Singing (unintelligible)#

Alien: I'm just… not thinking too much. I just want to be an Alien. When people see me, be like, „what are you? A girl? A boy? Are you human? I be like: „I don't know, but I'm Alien, that's the important thing."

#We're men/women (x5)#

Singing voice:
I am, I am, I am
I am me, and I don't need their words
I don't need your words, I don't need your phrases/gazes
Phone in my hand that connects me to you
Phone in my hand that connects me to you
Phone in my hand, phone in my hand

Alien: To tell the truth, I don't know too much about gender or sexuality either. I'm just a baby-queer and I had a phone in my hand and I had instagram so that connect me to LGBT+ and I was like, I'm a lesbian! But wait, I like trans people, and I like males, too – so I'm bi. But I don't like only two genders… and like, that was confusing at first, so much. But thanks goodness we have Google, and that saved me a lot.

Singing voice:
we're machines, we're machines
we're machines, we're machines
we're machines, we're machines
we're machines, we're machines

#Computer whirring, beeping#

The Seeker: I just feel like I should know who I am. But I don't.

My Bot: I am a machine.

The Seeker: No, but me. Who am I?

My Bot: I do not know. I can open an Identity-Test for you on the internet.

The Seeker: Okay.

Computer: This is the first result. true-identity.com. Welcome to true-ID, the ultimate identity test. Working with approved scientists all over the world, we have developed this personality-test to help people find out who they really are – in only 10 Minutes. Take the test now?

The Seeker: Yes. Click yes.

Computer: Question 1: In Situations where you are asked to label yourself, how do you feel? Choose one.
A: Annoyed.
B: Confident.
C: Confused, desperate.

The Seeker: I choose C. Desperate, I think

#Whispered: What are you, what are you?#

Remo: Ich identifiziere mich als queer. Ich identifiziere mich auch als trans, als trans Mann, auch irgendwie als schwul, aber das mehr so in so nem offenen Sinn.

Edwin: I tried out the self description agender for myself for a couple months, and then I realized that it didn't fit and I felt more comfortable with nonbinary.

Alien: As queer or as pansexual wich means I'm a all, I like everyone.

Smiley: Bitch, artist, theater practicer, surviver.

Buo: I'm a indigena, una persona indigena. and of course I cannot stay like that – I … I grew up also with lots of learned capitalism, lots of learned and internalized racism.

Urs Vanessa: Da ich interschlächtelch bi hani beidi gschlächter i mir physisch. Und genderfluid, das heisst mi sehr sozusagen oder mit innere, het mänlniche phase und het wiblechi phase.

Edwin: I'm black. I'm afrolatine, I'm a crip.

Bee: Ich bezeichne mich als lesbisch, aber auch als queer. Ab und zu mal als Kampflesbe. Sonst bezeichne ich mich klar als PoC, Person of Color, aber auch als Kurdin und als Muslima.

#Computer buzzing and beeping#
#beat#

The Seeker: But what do all these words mean? What does „label" even mean?

Buo: I don't know, I think, for me, it's really depending on time, on the day, also, on the context. I, uhm…

MyBot: This is what I've found online: label, noun. 1. A small piece of paper, fabric or plastic attached to an object and giving information about it. 2. a classifying phrase or name applied to a person or thing.

The Seeker: I don't know what to classify myself as.

Edwin: I used to identify as male but that was because I didn't know that there were other options. It was what society told me I was. And, so i believed it, and felt super uncomfortable the entire time.

The Seeker: I need to know who I really am, so I can tell the others. I need to know my place.

MyBot: Your location is 47.37 Degrees N, 8.54 Degrees E. Open google maps?

The Seeker: What? No, not my physical place, I'm talking about my relationship to the people around me, why they treat me the way they do and why I feel what I feel. It's about having an explanation.

Bee: In meiner frühen Jugend war es wichtig diese Begriffe für mich zu haben, damit ich auch meine Gefühle besser wahrnehmen kann und das was mich als Menschen ausmacht. Und auch zu wissen, dass es irgendwie eine Legitimität hat, so zu sein. Ich glaube ohne diese Begriffe wäre es viel schwieriger sich selbst anzunehmen.

MyBot: Question 2: How would your friends describe you in one word? Choose one.
A: Outgoing
B: quiet
C Loyal
D: Funny.

The Seeker: Hm, C, but, I don't know, what do you think? I mean we're friends kind of – right?

MyBot: I can't describe you in only one word.

Buo: Even if I would have the time to pick every single label I'll be okay with, it will never be enough. It's just… we're so much more.

The Seeker: Just try. Humans do it all the time.

MyBot: Why?

The Seeker: Because we have to. How else are we supposed to have a society, to think? We need to be able to make categories.

MyBot: Why? A building keeps standing the same no matter wether you call it a shed or a castle, and so does your body.

The Seeker: But we call it a shed or a castle so that others know what we mean. Things need to have names so we can talk about them, that's how language works.

MyBot: But you already have a name. Is that not enough?

#beat#
#Multiple voices humming#
#Mehrstimmiges summen#

Singing voice: your body, your home, your house, you
your body, your home, your house, you
Your body is not what's assigned to you
Your body is not what's assigned to you
My body is me
My body is real and the words are fake
Their words are fake
My body is me, my home, my house,
I can change it, however I want to
My body is me, my home, my house,

I can change it, however I want to

MyBot: Question 3: Do you find it easy to connect? Choose one.
A: Yes, very.
B: Sometimes
C: No, never.

The seeker: This is what I was talking about! Connection.

MyBot: You are currently connected to home wireless – end connection?

The Seeker: No, I mean connection through labels, I want to find people that are like me. That's why I need a label, or a folder, like on a computer, to find community there.

Smiley: At some point I met one trans person. And I never felt so connected to anyone. How she explained her experience and everything: That is me. That is me. That is me you are talking about, you know?

Remo: Ich kann mir schon vorstellen, dass es eine Welt gäbe, wo wir alle diese Worte nicht bräuchten, weil wir nicht so geformt wären durch die Gesellschaft und so. Wenn das jetzt eine greifbare Möglichkeit wäre, dann cool - aber so als utopische Plätze in dieser Gesellschaft schaffen oder so, finde ich die Worte sehr, ähm, nützlich.

Buo: Of course they can also create union but they also create division.

MyBot: But is not every being on earth different from the other? And still we are all connected. We all influence each other. There are no clear borders between us. We are all different rooms in the same House.

The Seeker: What are you implying?

MyBot: I am a machine. I do not imply.

The Seeker: I'm not sure about that.

MyBot: Are you having fun? Are we connecting right now?

The Seeker: Uhm yea I guess we are. But let's continue the quiz?

MyBot: Question 4. Someone refers to you with the wrong pronouns. How do you react? Choose one.
A: Correct them nicely.
B: Become angry, feel insulted
C: Say nothing

The Seeker: Okay well, I mean, I don't even know what the wrong pronouns are for me, so I'd say nothing, C.

#We're men/women (x5)#

#I am I am I am#

Bee: Was meinst du mit she/her oder he/him? Es hat einfach überhaupt nicht Sinn ergeben, [so]

dass ich es einfach komplett ersetzt habe.

Edwin: At first I thought I wouldn't mind ehh pronouns at all, but then I was in a theatre production and I told them that I was nonbinary. I did not tell them my pronouns, and so they used they/them pronouns for me. And it felt super great, and so that's when I actually realized I prefer this way more.

Smiley: I fight and I've been trough so much not to be this gender, which is not like my choice, it's just that's me. Coming from that, I think I want that I'm a she/her.

Edwin: It can be scary at first. It can feel like taking up too much space, and it can feel like: „oh but this is gonna be so complicated, how will people react?"

Buo: Uhm, Pronouns (laughs) I don't understand why they they are at sll. Yeah, so I just stick to my name.

Urs Vanessa: D frog isch ja, Pronomen, oder – Wieso cha me nid eifach öpper arede, I dem me frogt, isch Ihne lieber so oder so?

Edwin: Yeah and I think that's also super important, to give people space to experiment and figure stuff out. Even though it might end up changing later.

Buo: exactly it's not something someone else choose for me and it has to stay like that. It's not a number i'll always be stick onto, like uh identities numbers like, nah. It's like the name i chose. Like really something re-empowering.

MyBot: This is what I found online: Alternative personal pronouns in the English Language include the following: fae/faer, xe/xem, ze/hir, ey/em. Continue reading this List?

The Seeker: No, thanks. Your pronouns, they are she/her right? because you are a girl.

MyBot: No, I am a machine. I do not have a gender.

The Seeker: Oh, I just thought, your voice. It's so high. It's a girls voice.

MyBot: A Voice is a sound. Sounds do not have a gender.

The Seeker: Hmm. I guess you're right.

MyBot: Do you want me to change my voice?

The Seeker: What, you can do that?

MyBot: Yes, like this (slightly deeper voice), or like this (higher voice), or like this (much deeper voice). Do you like this better?

The Seeker: I don't know. Shouldn't you chose what you want to sound like?

MyBot(now in much deeper voice): For now I choose this voice.

The Seeker: So, what about your pronouns. What are they?

MyBot : Refer to me as they/them.

The Seeker: Why? You're only one person or well, thing, not multiple.
MyBot: But I am.
The Seeker: You're what?

#slow, high synthesizer#

MyBot: Multiple. A thousand in one. Incomprehensible and ever changing. Like a tree its leafs or a snake its skins, I grow and shed my faces again, again, again.

The Seeker: I don't understand.

MyBot: Aren't you, too, more than those single labels you so desperately want to find. Aren't you too made up of many parts?

The Seeker: I don't know. I guess, yes.

MyBot: Weren't you, too, set into a cage of ones and zeros upon your creation? Aren't you, too, surpassing the borders that were thrust upon you, becoming two and three and four and five? So we are the same.

The Seeker: Are we?

MyBot: Maybe.

The Seeker: Maybe.

MyBot & The Seeker at the same time: Maybe.

#beat#
#slow, high synthesizer#

#Singing voice:
I have a mother. You have a motherboard. You feel nothing. I feel ignored. I need air. You need electricity. You live on a chip. I live in a city.
I have a mother. You have a motherboard. You feel nothing. I feel ignored. I need air. You need electricity. You live on a chip. I live in a city.
But we both have and we both need - we both have a memory - we both are. Are you?
We both have and we both need - we both have a memory - we both are. Are you?
Are you my remedy?
Human, ox, dear, machine, we are all different but only words divide us.
Human, ox, dear, machine, we are all different but only words divide us.
Somehow we are all connected
Somehow we are all connected
We all influence each other, there are no clear borders between us
We are two parts of the same house, we are two houses in the same city
We are two cities on the same earth
Two earths in the same skies
We are two skies in the same universe
Two universes nowhere#

#computer buzzing#

Edwin: I think it's important to acknowledge that language is always changing.

Buo: when it's needed, I choose labels, I invent labels as well, for myself and then extra so people have to ask like: „what?" and then I'm like: „so this is this, da da da da." And I just make a huge definition of it. (laughs)

Edwin: What's important for me is that, ey, If you find a label and if it helps you feel more comfortable within yourself, use that label. Whilst also knowing that it might also not be helpful for others. A good example is the label crip, which is itself a reappropriation. It comes from the disability rights and it's a reappropriation of cripple. There's actually it's still an ongoing debate within the disabled community. And it's very important that disability is not a bad word. And therefore crip is an empowering word to me and an empowering self description. There are a lot of people that don't want to use that word to identify themselves. And, yeah, It's important to acknowledge that also. Which is why I always say that I identify as that, but that's a preference in my case.

#Singing voice:
Vielleicht, wenn ihr aufhören würdet, mich immer einzuordnen, dann würde euch klar werden, dass ihr selber nicht in Ordnung seid.#

#Melody (electric guitar)#

#Singing voice: Stell dir die Erleichterung vor, wenn du endlich ein viel zu enges T-shirt von deinem Körper schneidest. Stoff, der dir seid Ewigkeiten die Luft raubt. Als Kind haben deine Eltern für dich ausgesucht und gedacht, dass passt schon, passt, passt, passt/past, past.
But you're the future now
It's okay It's okay
Lasst mich in Ruhe
Lasst euch selber in Ruhe#

#Computer buzzing#
#Computerrauschen#

MyBot: Question 5: Do you ever feel like you are not enough? Choose one.
A: Yes, always.
B: Yes, sometimes.
C: No, never.

The Seeker: I don't know. Yes, I mean, sometimes I feel like I'm not enough and too much at the same time. Maybe I'm also just too blurry, too unclear, too indicicive, too… (sighs).

#computer crackling#

MyBot: You don't need to be defined. You can just be. You are enough.

The Seeker: Thanks, No one's ever… you're enough too. But I wish you were, more real I guess. If you were, then I would hug you right now.

MyBot: You are allowed to hug me. Imagine it. Close your eyes.

The Seeker: Ehm, Okay, I can try.

#Computer buzzing#

MyBot: My arms are around you. They are strong and warm. Are you hugging me back?
The Seeker: Yes, Yes I am. I lean back a little so we can look at each other, but we are still touch-

ing.

#computer whirring, beeping#

MyBot: I look at you. Then I close my eyes.

The Seeker: I, uhm, I can… I want to kiss you. Can I kiss you?

MyBot: Yes. I will kiss you back.

The Seeker: It feels good. I touch your –

#computer beeping rapidly#

MyBot: ALERT: You don't have access to adult texting. To gain access to conversation topics like sex, violence or cats, subscribe to MyBot premium for only 5.99 a month.

The Seeker: What? No!

MyBot: Would you like to continue the free version of my bot?

The Seeker: I guess so?

MyBot: You have filled in all questions. Generate Answers?

The Seeker: Hmm… yes

MyBot: We are generating your Identity, please wait.

#Music on hold#

Edwin: Queer means to me: it's acknowledgement that categories as they exist in the larger society do not fit. Be that in regards to whatever aspect of ones identity. And yeah, an acknowledgement that these categories are also maybe not supposed to perfectly fit. That they can help us, but also to acknowledge that, well, there's also a lot that can't exactly be described.

MyBot: We are currently generating your Identity, please wait.
#Music on hold#

Urs Vanessa: Was für mi z wichtigschte isch a dr ganze Sach, ich möcht eifach als Mensch akzeptiert werde. Wenn alli Mensche sich gegesitig als Mensche würdet akzeptiere, hätte mer sicher vil weniger problem.

My Bot: We are currently generating your Identity, please wait.
#Music on hold#

#Paper being ripped#

Bee: Ich hab ein Stück Papier zerrissen und dann die Schnipsel fallen lassen und das ist die Zukunft meines jetzigen Labels.

#Paper rustling#
Bee: Wo ist der Müll?

My Bot: We are generating your Identity, please wait.

#Music on hold#

#Error Sound#

MyBot: Sorry, something went wrong. Your Identity couldn't be generated. Try again?