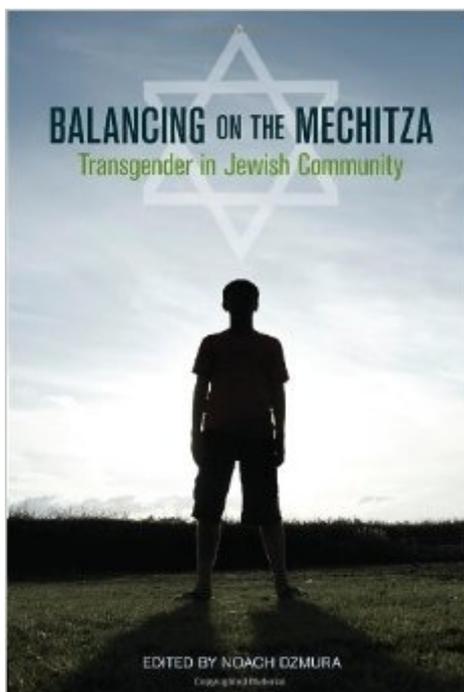


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# Balancing On The Mechitza: Transgender In Jewish Community



## Synopsis

**\*\*\*WINNER, 2011 Lambda Literary Award - Transgender Non-Fiction** While the Jewish mainstream still argues about homosexuality, transgender and gender-variant people have emerged as a distinct Jewish population and as a new chorus of voices. Inspired and nurtured by the successes of the feminist and LGBT movements in the Jewish world, Jews who identify with the *mechitza* now sit in the congregation, marry under the chuppah, and create Jewish families. Balancing on the *Mechitza* offers a multifaceted portrait of this increasingly visible community. The contributors—activists, theologians, scholars, and other transgender Jews—share for the first time in a printed volume their theoretical contemplations as well as rite-of-passage and other transformative stories. *Balancing on the Mechitza* introduces readers to a secular transwoman who interviews her Israeli and Palestinian peers and provides cutting-edge theory about the construction of Jewish personhood in Israel; a transman who serves as legal witness for a man (a role not typically open to persons designated female at birth) during a conversion ritual; a man deprived of testosterone by an illness who comes to identify himself with passion and pride as a Biblical eunuch; and a gender-variant person who explores how to adapt the masculine and feminine pronouns in Hebrew to reflect a non-binary gender reality.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #796,418 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #223 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Transgender](#) #497 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality](#) #1881 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

Reading this as research for a trans jewish character of mine - so far, it has been very helpful. I know little of jewish religion (and I'm trying to change that) and that book has been very enlightening

on both that subject and on how can beliefs and transitionning can interract positively. Were he real, my character would absolutely need to read this book. I recommend it to any trans jewish person or to anyone interest by the interactions of both theses things.

I had professor dzmura for a class and was told we needed to purchase this. Of course like most students, I'm like really? Another book. I have to say these stories were worth it. The topics mentioned, brought up and illustrated from a different view is amazing. If you're looking to understand the other side, this is a great starting point. Also professor Dzmura is easy to find if you want to ask follow-up questions : )

I bought this due to my work and studies; this is an amazing book covering a multitude of Jewish perspectives, from 'transitioning while frum' to a trans-Jewish perspective to details and explanations of traditional custom and law. For those interested in Jewish perspectives, or queer theory/practice, this is vital.

As a trans Jew I found this book inspiring and helpful. It educated me about my role in our culture and the roles we can have.

beautiful evocative provocative collection, raises a lot of fascinating issues and tells great stories we all need to hear and know

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