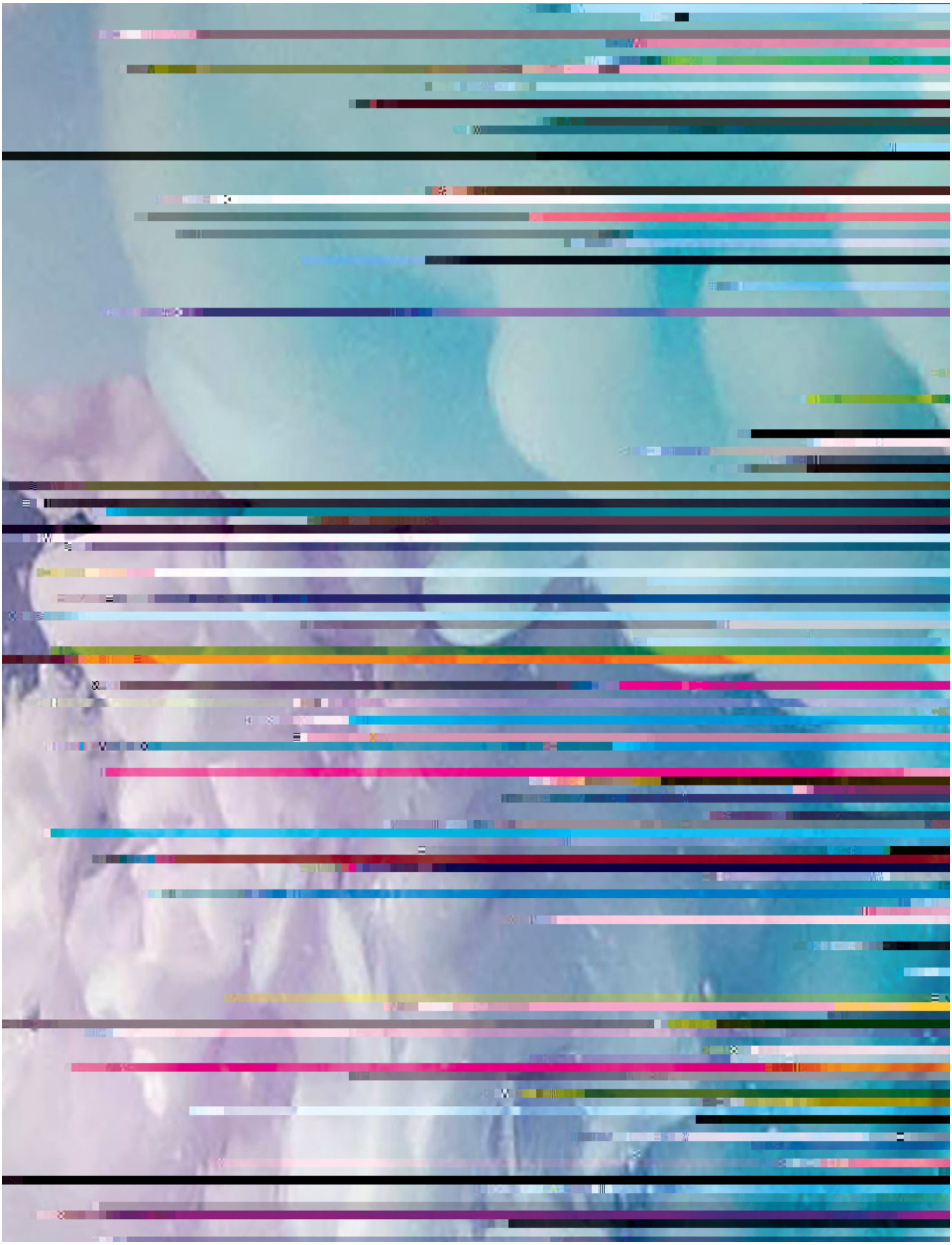

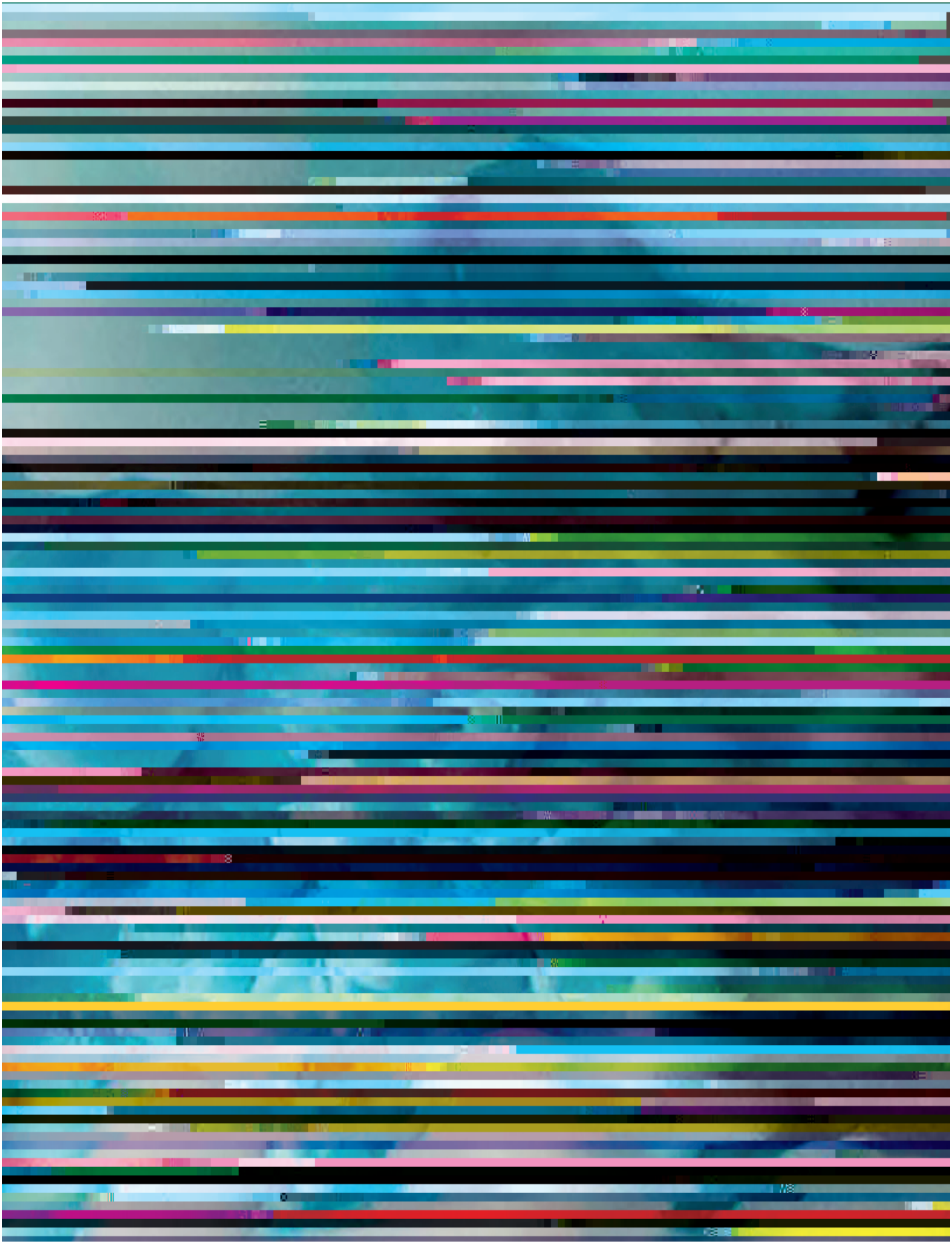

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themselves is the most important determinant of whether that framework is constructive or destructive. Transmedicalism is problematic in that it denies the validity of other constructions of transness and o□en monopolizes mainstream discourse about trans identity. □is renders

no. 100, 2008, pp. 38–59. Silverchair, doi:10.1215/01636545-

have an interaction they're uncomfortable with, with either a peer or an adult, they should tell an adult who they trust" (Tatter 2018). This quote from Tatter does a good job of acknowledging the difficulty in

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Since its release in 2016—growing more popular in the last two years—TikTok has been an important feature of pop culture, particularly for Generation Z. □e app features 15-60 second videos on a variety of topics, vastly di□erentiating between social groups, based on what content is repeatedly "liked." With the impacts of COVID-19 moving people into a time of self isolation, the app grew in popularity, as it provided easy to access entertainment. One of the trends I noticed in the app, notably within my own "side" of it, was a new openness and focus on inclusion, especially within the LGBTQIA+ community. As I interacted with more videos made by and for queer folx, my For You Page (FYP) quickly became full of queer content, in the form of jokes, education, shared interests, and more. Around this same time, seemingly in conjunction, I made the discovery that I was a lesbian, whereas I had previously been identifying as bisexual. It is my belief that I was able to make this discovery, in part, due to the in□uence of the TikTok app, through the content I was regularly interacting with. By analyzing the algorithm and FYP and its grouping strategies, the lack of heteronormative societal pressure due to COVID-19 isolation, and the community created through TikTok, I will discuss how TikTok aided in my discovery of my sexuality, as well as countless others' discoveries surrounding gender and sexuality.

One of the most prominent aspects of TikTok is the For You Page, abbreviated as FYP. □is is the main aspect of consumption on the app, where posted videos appear. Although used in other forms of social media, the algorithm on TikTok is a huge part of the app and in□uences quite a bit of how content is viewed. Because of this, diu

was created for queer people to be queer.

As I have mentioned many times, an important aspect of Tik-Tok and my discussion is the community which has been fostered in the app. This community has done many things—spreading awareness about political issues, sharing thoughts and ideas, creating a safe space, and discussing the communal need for media which represents queer people in normalized, positive ways. As discussed in the article

(King, 2020). □e power of voters of color has impacted democracy

running: Gay and lesbian candidates, elections, and policy representation, 84-117. Washington D.C: Georgetown University Press.

Haygood, R. P. (2012).

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