

QUEER ENCOUNTERS

by JOSEPH RONAN and PAUL FISHER DAVIES

BITEXTUALITY AND COMICS!

INTRO:

DIALOGUE is an important STRUCTURING DYNAMIC across many discourses... RELIGION LAW PHILOSOPHY PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

But these structuring dialogues can be

HEIRARCHICAL COMBATIVE LINEAR END-ORIENTED.

Rather than looking to WIN an argument, REVEAL/FIX a PARTICULAR TRUTH, or PRIVILEGE ONE VOICE (OR FORM!), we use the interjunction of QUEERNESS and COMICS to explore OTHER ways of being in relation.

That's not to say there might not still be POWER DYNAMICS at play!

Queer comics have often been about SEX-bodies visibly and wryly together, CONNECTING.

COMICS FORMS have developed to represent BODIES in ACTION, rather than ABSTRACT ARGUMENT.

QUEER ENCOUNTERS

THE DYNAMIC OF PLAY

QUEER NEGATIVITY

QUEER ENERGIES

EXPAND THE POSSIBLE GROUNDS OF THE RELATIONAL, GIVE US NEW WAYS OF BEING IN RELATION.

SINCE: there is to be in relation, BEING IN RELATION disrupts any coherence in BEING.

TEXTUAL INTERCOURSE

DIALOGUE - AS THEORETICAL PRODUCTION

DIALOGUE - AS SOME OF THE RISK AND EXCITEMENT OF THE INTIMATE ENCOUNTER

COLLABORATION AND ARGUMENT

THIS COLLABORATION

DIAGLOGUE OCCURRING BETWEEN POETS AS WELL AS VOICES, JOSEPH

MODELS SOME OF B. SHAPIRO'S, GONIM, SAMIR, AND OTHERS' INHERENCES

BISexual THEORY

QUEER WANTS TO... EXPLODE THE BINARY

QUEER CAN STILL COME TO STAND FOR LESBIAN and GAY

BISexual THEORY similarly sits awkwardly both WITHIN and OUTSIDE QUEER STUDIES

Can CRITIQUE and RESIST BOTH.

BISexual THEORY

AS THE SUPPOSED BINARY, GONIM MEETS SEXUALITIES OVER AS IT MARKS THE VERY POINTS OF THEIR DIVISION!

MEANING IS NOT JUST PRODUCED BY THE IMAGE/TEXT/SCENE

SO IT IS NOT NECESSARILY THE PICTURE AND WORD TOGETHER AND THE FORCE OF THE DRIVE TO BE APART

BI-TEXTUALITY

BI is produced UPON DIALOGUE and FLUX

COMICS

FROM THIS, WE COULD SAY THAT THE CHANCE TO BE PRIVILEGED PROMPTLY COMES AND DISAPPEARS

THE DESIRE TO BE "GAY" IS PROBABLY WHAT COMPELS US TO FOLLOW

THE TRIED AND TRUE PATHS OF CONFORMANCE

TO PRODUCE ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF RELATION.

QUESTION: HOW DOES MATURITY COME TO BE THE GOAL AND MEASURE OF LIFE?

AND HOW CAN WE RESIST, OF MISBEHAVE?

HIGH CULTURE, EDUCATED (AND OTHERS)

DEFINABLE, MEASURABLE, GAY'S FORMALITY

CERTAIN LIVES ARE THE ONLY ONE OTHERS

We also suggest CONNECTIONS between END-oriented narrativity and the cultural injunction to MATURE - and ask how QUEER/COMICS can offer OTHER (immature) ways to RESIST this.

We ask: What other forms of INTERCOURSE might a meeting of QUEERNESS and COMICS also enable?

QUEER ENCOUNTERS

1 The FUNDAMENTAL UNFIXING of IDENTITY!

QUEER IS...

2 The OPENING UP of OTHER ways of Being-in-relation.

THIS DYNAMIC

Plays out in what term

what BERLANT + EDELMAN

AN "ENCOUNTER"

SEX IS JUST ONE!

sex is just an important sex!

Intercourse n. 1. communications or dealings with individuals

Through ENCOUNTERS NEGATIVITY UNLEASHES the ENERGY that allows for the possibility of CHANGE.

2013: vii-ix

The PSYCHIC and SOCIAL INCOHERENCES and D/I/V/I/S/I/O/N/S

QUEER NEGATIVITY

RESISTANCE to the FIXITY of SOCIAL FORMS

That TROUBLE any TOTALITY or fixity of IDENTITY.

DEFINE the POSSIBILITIES for and the LIMITS of RELATIONALITY.

2013: viii

QUEER ENERGIES

EXPAND the possible GROUNDS of the RELATIONAL, give us NEW WAYS of BEING in RELATION... AND THEREFORE...

NEW WAYS of being.

- i. 'to be' is to BE IN RELATION
- ii. BEING in RELATION disrupts any coherence in BEING.

beInG.

66 ⁹⁹ **TEXTUAL INTERCOURSE**

- DIALOGUE -
AS THEORETICAL PRODUCTION

DIALOGUE

has some of the RISK and EXCITEMENT we confront in the INTIMATE ENCOUNTER.

BERLANT and EDELMAN 2014 IX



Through COLLABORATION and ARGUMENT - BETWEEN, we grapple with SOCIAL RELATIONS

DIALOGUE AS THEORETICAL PRODUCTION!

not in the ABSTRACT

BUT MATERIALLY, TEXTUALLY.

THIS COLLABORATION:

DIALOGUE OCCURRING between FORMS

AS WELL AS VOICES, JOSEPH



PAUL

MODELS some of the DISRUPTIONS,

CONVERGENCE and INCOHERENCES OF QUEER RELATIONALITY.

her
hel

COBI-

BISEXUAL THEORY QUERR

WANTS TO...

UNFIX OR

TO EXPLODE
IDENTITY



BUT:

i. QUEER CAN BECOME FIXED

AS AN OPPOSITIONAL POSITION

ii.

QUEER can still come to stand for

LESBIAN ← and → GAY

at the expense of OTHER non-normative sexuality experiences

OFTEN ERASED OR IGNORED - too 'STRAIGHT' to be QUEER, too 'QUEER' to be included in mainstream sexual cultures. This is

BISEXUAL ERASURE

Including BISEXUALITY



BISEXUAL THEORY

(similarly sits (awkwardly) both WITHIN and OUTWITH QUEER STUDIES

+ can CRITIQUE and RESIST BOTH.

QUEER STUDIES



BITEXTUALITY or 'BISEXUAL TEXTUALITY'

is characterised by a PARADOXICAL RELATIONALITY
Just like **BISSEXUALITY**:

AS the
apparent **MID POINT** in a
supposed **BINARY**,

BISEXUALITY
CONNECTS
HETERO-HOMO-
SEXUALITIES even as it MARKS the very
POINT OF THEIR DIVISION!



Whereas **bitextuality**
names the **IMAGE/TEXT/READER**
DIALOGUE.

MEANING IS ACTIVELY PRODUCED
in the **INTERCOURSE** between **PICTURE**
and **WORD**.

LORRAINE
KOOISTRA

1995
11-13



SO it's a **NEGOTIATED**
RELATION between the **FORCES** that make
The **PICTURE** and **WORD** cohere
AND the **FORCES** that **DRIVE**
them **A PART** →

So it **NEVER** results
in a **SEAMLESS ONENESS**.

A **BISexual** PERSPECTIVE
can
focus on - **IS** DEPENDENT
UPON -

Those **VERY RIFTS**
which **OTHER IDENTITIES**
may gain more from
avoiding!

CLARE
HEMMINGS

1997, 209



Rather than a **LINEAR**,
end-oriented
NARRATIVITY of
66 (coming-out 99
into 66 **AUTHENTIC** 99
(FIXED)

GAY or **LESBIAN**
IDENTITY,



BI -
is premised
RIFTS,

TEXTUALITY
upon
DIALOGUE and
FLUX : on the possibility
for **CHANGE**.

It's
therefore characterised by
the same **INCOHERENCES**
and **DIVISIONS** as
the **ENCOUNTER!**

TEXTUAL IMMATURITY

Bisexuality is immature.

Comics is immature?

"GROW UP!"

Being taken **SERIOUSLY** means **MISSING OUT** on the chance to be **FRIVOLOUS, PROMISCUOUS** and **IRRELEVANT!**

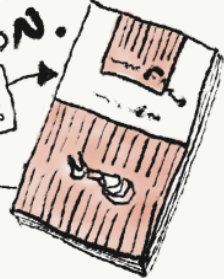
The **DESIRE** to be taken **SERIOUSLY** is precisely what **COMPELS** PEOPLE to **FOLLOW**.

JACK HALBERSTAM



The **TRIED** and **TRUE** PATHS of **KNOWLEDGE** **PRODUCTION**.

The **QUEER ART** of **FAILURE** 2011: 6



Resisting a **NORMATIVE, LINEAR** maturation **NARRATIVE**

We can **INSTEAD** explore the **IMMATURE** as **SEXUAL PRACTICE** **TEXTUAL**

BIRTH



EDUCATION



REPRODUCTION



DEATH!

MARRIAGE



WEALTH ACCUMULATION



TO PRODUCE **ALTERNATIVE** forms of **RELATION**:

QUESTION: How does **MATURITY**

come to be the **GOAL** and **MEASURE** of **LIFE**?

Through what **discursive** strategies?

i.e., **BEHAVING** according to **CULTURAL STANDARDS + EXPECTATIONS**

And how can we **RESIST**, or **MISBEHAVE**?

DR PAUL F DAVIES

Certain **ARTISTIC** FORMS are **ELEVATED** over **OTHERS**

HIGH culture

LOW culture

JUST LIKE

DEFINABLE NARRATABLE FIXABLE

UNfixable UNTELLABLE

QUEER

Certain **LIVES** are **elevated** over **OTHERS**.



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