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Special issue editors

### **Queer Studies: Methodological Approaches. Follow-up**

In December 2008, the Graduate Journal of Social Science published a special issue on Queer Methodologies. During the production of that issue, we received a number of qualified and thought-provoking articles, focusing on the issue of queer methodologies from different angles. Indeed, the number and quality of submitted articles was so significant that we have decided to publish an additional, extracurricular, issue.

This follow-up issue is a continuation of ideas we proposed in the first call for papers. It is thou an interesting “supplement” to the previous issue, enriching the already broad scope of interests presented. In this issue, the inquiries of the translation of queer are further problematised. While the December issue focused on the relationship between queer and geo-political contexts and academic cultures, the articles in current issue are focusing on the past, present and future of queer, further questioning the notion of “location’ and trans-historically located practises.

We begin with the article of Jonathan Kemp “Queer Past, Queer Present, Queer Future”, which (although not directly) dialogues with Tiina Rosenberg’s article about genealogies of queer theory. Kemp however, recalls the past in order to jump into the future. By looking at recently published books in the field, he invites us to wonder what will be the future of queer (even if some queer theoreticians do not believe in any....).

“Agency” is surely one of the problematic issues within queer theoretical and activist thinking/doing, and we are happy to present two articles that offer seemingly different, yet we would argue, complimenting perspectives. Terri Power writing about performance art and university education is a piece based on her own experiences of doing/practicing/performing PhD. Not only do we have here a queer blur of “disciplines” (education, art) but also modalities of doing (doing PhD, doing performances as part of PhD, doing an article about doing performances which are indeed doing PhD....).

On the other hand, Bo Jensen argues for a materialist focus in queer studies through an analysis of “agency” as constructed at the crossroads of human beings and material culture. Seen as performed via materialisation through artefacts, as much as through a human being/doing, Jensen suggests a shift in ways of “ascribing and describing agency”.

A critique of ideas of coherent identities is also in focus in the subsequent article of this issue. With the aim to destabilize an understanding of Finland as a secular and egalitarian country, Eva-Mikaela Kinnari in her article, analyzes the debate around the “Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments in Finland”. Here, Kinnari questions the division of ‘values’ into categories such as ‘religious’ or ‘secular’, and argues that such a differentiation might obscure queer work to destabilise heteronormative ideas of kinship.

Péter Balogh’s article about Anthony Bidulka’s gay detective stories not only focuses on literature, the relationship between gay and straight readership, but also works on Canadian nationalism. In his article, we can thus trace the issues of “homonationalism”, which gain a lot of attention recently.

Finally, this April issue closes with the article of Ellen Zitani, who forges an understanding within the connections between female (same-sex) desire, feminism and free love in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Italy. By looking at private correspondence and literary writing of Sibilla Aleramo, Zitani meanders with us through the maze of never easily categorised spheres of human emotions and needs. By looking at Aleramo’s relationship with man and women, Zitani shows how we should never stagnate in one “definite” category, especially, when what is at stake, is desire...

The review section to this issue is constituted by two reviews and one review essay, engaged with methodological implications of queer politics. In this section, Richard Maguire writes a book review of Sally R. Munt’s “*Queer Attachments, The Cultural Politics of Shame*”, and Camila Esguerra Muelle writes a review of the book “*De la cama a la calle: perspectivas teóricas lesbico-feministas*” [From the Bed to the Street: Lesbian-Feminist Theoretical Perspectives]. The last contribution to this issue is a review essay by Robert Teixeira on queer shame, which also connects to discussions on the ‘anti-social’ and ‘no future’ in queer studies at large and more particularly investigated in Judith Halberstam’s contribution to the December 2008 issue of the Graduate Journal of Social Science.