

Literature on Culture and Body from a SEXUALITY perspective

Literature in English

2010

Title and references: *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*, Reeser, T. & Wiley-Blackwell, 2010
<http://books.google.it/books?hl=it&lr=&id=bFpoJTVhR-0C&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=Masculinities+in+Theory:+An+Introduction>

Theme: **Sexuality / Gender / Body**

Short paragraph: *Masculinities in Theory* is a clear, concise, and comprehensive introduction to the field of masculinity studies from a humanities perspective. It serves as a much-needed introduction to the field. Includes discussions of gay/queer, feminist, and gender studies in relation to masculinity. Covers the key theoretical approaches to the study of masculinity, and introduces new models. Explores the question: what is masculinity and how does it work? Looks at language, discourse, signification, power, cross-dressing, female, queer and transsexual masculinity, race and masculinity, nation and masculinity, interracial masculinities, and masculinities in history.

Title and references: *IMPACT: Feature Issue on Sexuality and People with Intellectual, Developmental and Other Disabilities*, Volume 23/ no 3, 2010

Theme: **Sexuality / Disability**

Short paragraph: A magazine that handles issues about sexuality for people living with a disability.

2008

Title and references: *Sexuality & Culture: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*, Refinetti, Roberto, ed. , 2008
<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/journal/12119>

Theme: **Sexuality**

Short paragraph: This interdisciplinary journal offers an international forum for analysis of ethical, cultural, psychological, social, and political issues related to sexual relationships and sexual behaviour. Coverage extends to sexual consent and sexual responsibility; harassment and freedom of speech; privacy; censorship and pornography; impact of film and literature on sexual relationships; and university and governmental regulation of intimate relationships, such as interracial relationships and student-professor relationships.

Title and references: *Handbook of Theories of Aging*, Bengton, Vern L., in *From Industrialism to Institutionalism: Theoretical Accounts of Aging*, ed. Gans, Daphna & Putney, Norella

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| | & Silverstein, Merrill, 2008 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Gender / Health / Body |
| Short paragraph: | The handbook discusses how the various approaches to aging theory can be integrated to create a unified theoretical aging discourse. Chapters include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dynamic Integration Theory: Emotion, Cognition, and Equilibrium in Later Life; - Cognitive Control Theory of Aging and Emotional Well-Being; - Theorizing Feminist Gerontology, Sexuality and Beyond.. |

2007

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| Title and references: | <i><u>Dirt: New Geographies of Cleanliness and Contamination</u></i> , ed. Campkin, Ben & Cox, Rosie, 2007 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Health / Gender / Body |
| Short paragraph: | Dirt - and our rituals to eradicate it - are as much a part of our everyday lives as eating, breathing and sleeping. Yet, this very fact means that we seldom stop to question what we mean by dirt. What do our attitudes to dirt and cleanliness tell us about ourselves and the societies we live in? The contributors to this work expose the interests which underlie everyday conceptions of dirt and reveal how our ideas about it are intimately bound up with issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality and the body. |

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| Title and references: | <i><u>Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care</u></i> , ed. Aggleton, Peter & Coram, Thomas, 2007 http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/13691058.html |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Health |
| Short paragraph: | <i>Culture, Health & Sexuality</i> is a leading international environment for the publication of papers in the fields of culture, health and sexuality. |

2006

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| Title and references: | <i><u>Carving the Body: Female Circumcision in African Women's Memoirs</u></i> , Gordon-Chipembere, Natasha, in <i>eSharp</i> , 2006, issue 6:2. www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_41182_en.pdf |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Disability / Health |
| Short paragraph: | The author describes how female circumcision is a worldwide phenomenon, practiced in twentysix African countries, Malaysia, Indonesia, the southern parts of the Arab Peninsula, Pakistan, Russia, Peru, Brazil, Eastern Mexico, Australia, and in immigrant communities in Europe and the United States. Female circumcision exists today because of its socio-cultural significance, where the value of belonging to one's group and being recognized as a meaningful and thoughtful participating member of the community may outweigh the pain and life-long health implications of circumcision. |
| Title and | <i><u>Social exclusion of young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in</u></i> |

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| references: | <i>Europe</i> , Takács, ILGA Europe, 2006 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Gender |
| Short paragraph: | Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people continue to face discrimination and exclusion across Europe in all spheres of life. Homophobic violence and abuse targeting LGBT people occur on a regular basis. In most EU Member States, same-sex couples do not enjoy the same rights and protections as opposite sex couples, and consequently suffer from discrimination and disadvantage in access to social protection schemes, such as healthcare and pensions. In the labour market, a majority of LGBT people continue to hide their sexual orientation or to endure harassment out of fear of losing their job. Particularly vulnerable are young LGBT people who experience estrangement from family and friendship networks, harassment at school and invisibility, which can lead in some cases to underachievement at school, school drop-out, mental ill-health and homelessness. This discrimination not only denies LGBT people equal access to key social goods, such as employment, healthcare, education and housing, but it also marginalises them in society and makes them one of the vulnerable groups who are at risk of becoming socially excluded. |
| 2004 | |
| Title and references: | <i>Undoing Gender</i> , Butler, Judith, Routledge, first edition, 2004 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Gender |
| Short paragraph: | Butler takes up the case of David Reimer, who was born male and medically reassigned female at eight months old. Reimer's case exemplifies the medical treatment of intersex and the oversimplification of gender therein. |
| 2002 | |
| Title and references: | <i>Constructing Sexualities: Readings in Sexuality, Gender, and Culture</i> , LaFont, Suzanne, 2002 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Gender |
| Short paragraph: | Designed to introduce readers to a broad range of relevant ideas and theories and to encourage critical thinking on a variety of sexuality and gender topics, this collection of articles, classic and current, addresses the relationships between sexuality, gender, and culture. The readings include descriptions of variations in sexual and gender ideologies, expressions of sexuality, gender diversity, and global issues. Gay rights, transgendered movements, intersexed awareness, female genital mutilation, male circumcision, AIDS, sex tourism, and the sex.com explosion on the internet are all current issues addressed." |
| Title and references: | <i>Genderqueer: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary</i> , J. Nestle, J. & Wilchins, R.A. & Howell, C., Los Angeles: Alyson Publications, 2002 http://exploringtrans.wordpress.com/2010/09/08/genderqueer/ |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Body / Gender |

Short paragraph: The questions go beyond the nature of male/female to a yet-to-be-traversed region that lies somewhere between and beyond biologically determined gender. In this groundbreaking anthology, three experts in gender studies and politics navigate around rigid, societally imposed concepts of two genders to discover and illuminate the limitless possibilities of identity. Thirty first-person accounts of gender construction, exploration, and questioning provide a groundwork for cultural discussion, political action, and even greater possibilities of autonomous gender choices. Noted scholar Joan Nestle is joined by internationally prominent gender warrior Riki Anne Wilchins and historian Clare Howell to provide a societal, cultural, and political exploration of gender identity.

2001

Title and references: *The woman in the body: A cultural analysis of reproduction*, Martin, Emily, Beacon Press, 2001

Theme: **Sexuality / Body / Gender / Health**

Short paragraph: A bold reappraisal of science and society, *The Woman in the Body* explores the different ways that women's reproduction is seen in American culture. Contrasting the views of medical science with those of ordinary women from diverse social and economic backgrounds, anthropologist Emily Martin presents unique fieldwork on American culture and uncovers the metaphors of economy and alienation that pervade women's images of themselves and their bodies. A new preface examines some of the latest medical ideas about women's reproductive cycles.

2000

Title and references: *Sexing the Body. Gender Politics and the construction of Sexuality*, Fausto-Sterling, Anne, Basic Books, New York, 2000
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/fausto-sterling.html>

Theme: **Sexuality / Gender / Body**

Short paragraph: Some find the changes under way deeply disturbing; others find them liberating. Brown University biologist and historian, Anne Fausto-Sterling, argues for a redefinition of our two-sex-only world. She also offers new guidelines on how doctors should handle intersex babies.

1999

Title and references: *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations*, Nand, Serena, 1999

Theme: **Sexuality / Gender**

Short paragraph: How can we gain new understandings about sex, gender, and sexuality? What are the relationships between culture and gender diversity? How has the diffusion of Euro-American culture affected the sex/gender ideologies of non-European cultures? This eye-opening account of the differences in how sex/gender diversity is experienced in seven cultures raises our consciousness and challenges our

intellectual understandings and attitudes about what we consider natural, normal, and morally right.

Title and references: *Thinking sex: Notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality*, Gayle, Rubin in *Culture, society and sexuality: A reader*, 1999, pp. 143-179

Theme: **Sexuality**

Short paragraph: If sex is taken too seriously, sexual persecution is not taken seriously enough. There is systematic mistreatment of individuals and communities on the basis of erotic taste or behaviour. There are serious penalties for belonging to the various sexual occupational castes. The sexuality of the young is denied, adult sexuality is often treated like a variety of nuclear waste, and the graphic representation of sex takes place in a mire of legal and social circumlocution. Specific populations bear the brunt of the current system of erotic power, but their persecution upholds a system that affects everyone.

The 1980s have already been a time of great sexual suffering. They have also been a time of ferment and new possibility. The author claims that it is up to all of us to try to prevent more barbarism and to encourage erotic creativity. Those who consider themselves progressive need to examine their preconceptions, update their sexual educations, and acquaint themselves with the existence and operation of sexual hierarchy. It is time to recognize the political dimensions of erotic life.

1993

Title and references: *On pornography: literature, sexuality and obscenity law*, Hunter, Ian & Saunders, David & Williamson, Dugald, Macmillan, 1993

Theme: **Sexuality**

Short paragraph: The policing of pornography remains the subject of widespread and ongoing controversy. This book provides a history of this policing which is geared towards understanding the current debate. The authors demonstrate that obscenity law cannot be understood negatively as censorship and must instead be seen as part of the positive administration of a particular practice of sexuality. They also argue that pornography itself should be described negatively as a mere representation of real sex but positively as a real practice of sex using representations. This history indicates that obscenity law is not, as liberals claim, a mistaken attempt to police moral ideas, but rather forms part of the legitimate governmental regulation of a problematic social conduct. At the same time it asks whether feminists might not be mistaken in attributing this conduct to the nature of the male imagination.

1991

Title and references: *Nature had nothing to do with it: the role of sexology*, Weeks, Jeffrey in *Sexuality and its contents. Meaning, myths and modern sexualities*, London-New York, Routledge, 1991

Theme: **Sexuality / Gender**

Short paragraph: Jeffrey Weeks unravels the dense web of historical, theoretical and political forces that have culminated in the contemporary crisis of sexual meanings and values. The

book begins with a powerful evocation of our present discontents and their potent signs: the rise of the New Right, the retreat of progressive forces and a wave of moral panics around sex. It argues that this crisis is rooted in a tradition which has ascribed an inflated importance to sexuality, while claiming a privileged access to truth. The author then examines radical debates of recent years, and asks whether they contain the potentiality for taking us beyond the existing boundaries of sexuality. From this analysis emerges a controversial “radical pluralist” approach to sexuality built on an acceptance of diversity and choice.

1987

Title and references:

The Cross-Cultural Study of Human Sexuality, Davis, D.L. & Whitten, R.G., in *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 1987, vol. 16, pp. 69-98

Theme:

Sexuality

Short paragraph:

This essay is a brief review of cross-cultural human sexuality and the typical concerns anthropologists have brought to the study of sexual practices. The article focuses on cross-cultural studies of sexual practices that attempt to deal with human sexual arousal, attraction and customary means of dealing with sexuality in non-Western cultures.

1978

Title and references:

The History of Sexuality, Foucault, Michel, New York, Pantheon, 1978, vol. 1

Theme:

Sexuality / Gender / Health / Body

Short paragraph:

"Scientia Sexualis", explores the development of the scientific study of sex, the attempt to unearth the "truth" of sex, a phenomenon which Foucault argues is peculiar to the west. He furthermore argues that this scientia sexualis has repeatedly been used for political purposes, being utilised in the name of "public hygiene" to support state racism. Returning to the influence of the Catholic confession, he looks at the relationship between the confessor and the authoritarian figure that they confess to, arguing that as Roman Catholicism was eclipsed in much of Western and Northern Europe following the Reformation, the concept of confession survived and became more widespread, entering into the relationship between parent and child, patient and psychiatrist and student and educator; by the 19th century, he maintains, the "truth" of sexuality was being readily explored both through confession and scientific enquiry. Foucault proceeds to examine how the confession of sexuality then came to be "constituted in scientific terms", arguing that scientists began to trace the cause of all aspects of human psychology and society to sexual factors.

1975

Title and references:

The Traffic in Women, Rubin, Gayle, New York, Monthly Review Press, 1975
http://www.progettouguadi.it/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/STEREOTIPITirini_FIM07_091110.pdf

Theme:

Sexuality / Gender / Body

Short paragraph: The American anthropologist defines gender: as something that is disconnected from the sex. Indeed while the sex is genetic - a mass of biological, physical and anatomical characteristics that produce a real differentiation between men and women - the gender represents a cultural construction of a representation, a definition and a reinforcement of attitudes that complement the biological genetics and that determine the status of being man and woman.

1967

Title and references: *Studies in Ethnomethodology*, Garfinkel, Harold, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1967

Theme: **Sexuality**

Short paragraph: Excerpt of Agnes story: "I'm not like them" she would continually insist. "In high school I steer clear of boys that acted like sissies ... anyone with an abnormal problem ... I would completely shy away from them and go to the point of being insulting just enough to get around them ... I didn't want to feel noticed talking to them because somebody might relate them to me. I didn't want to be classified with them..."

Just as normals frequently will be at loss to understand why a person would do that, i.e. engage in homosexual activities or dress as a member of the opposite sex, so did Agnes display the same lack of "understanding" for such behavior, although her accounts characteristically were delivered with flattened affect and never with indignation. When she was invited to compare herself with homosexuals and transvestites she found the comparison repulsive.

1935

Title and references: *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies*, Mead, Margaret, William Morrow and company, 1935

http://www.progettouguadi.it/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/STEREOTIPI_Tirini_FIM07_091110.pdf

Theme: **Sexuality / Gender / Body**

Short paragraph: Mead clearly shows the cultural and variable nature of the female and male's temperament that are considered, at that time, as innate and universal features of the personality and determined by the biological gender. The comparative work of the scholar allows Mead to demonstrate that the features of the female personality, as well as the male's one, diverged from culture to culture and so they grow away from any generalization.

Literature in other languages

2009

Title and references: *Personen met een handicap en (seksueel) misbruik*, Handiscoop, maart 2009, jaargang 64/nummer 2, pp.3-8

Themes: **Sexuality / Disability**

Short paragraph: The subject of this article is (sexual) abuse towards persons with mainly a mental

disability. The article contains the definition of sexual abuse and tells us why persons with a mental disability are more vulnerable. Besides that it also contains a few testimonies from parents about how they try to arm their kids against abuse. There is a rubric about what instances people can contact if there is suspicion of abuse, and which steps they can take accordingly.

2006

Title and references:

Krop, sygdom og seksualitet, Graugaard, Christian & Møhl Bo & Hertoft, Preben (red), Hans Reitzels forlag, DK 2006

Theme:

Sexuality / Body / Health

Short paragraph:

It is a well-known fact that serious disease affects human relationships and sexual-life. Yet, the subject is often tabuized in the encounter between doctor and patient. This book deals with the interaction between disease and sexuality. In focus are serious diseases as cancer, heart and lung diseases, rheumatic diseases, diabetes, eating disorders, kidney diseases, bowl diseases and skin diseases. In addition, some chapters deal with gynecology and childbirth, chromosomal disorders and sexual abuse. Finally, the book contains more general chapters on practical sexology, ethnicity and sexual side effects of medication use. I

Title and references:

Maschio o femmina?, O'leary, Dale, ed., Rubettino, 2006
http://www.storialibera.it/attualita/donna_e_donne/articolo.php?id=2503&titolo=Dale%20%27Leary

Theme:

Sexuality / Gender

Short paragraph:

The author produces a confutation of the ideas proposed by radical feminism that consider the differences between genders as a cultural product. According to these theories the term "sex" should be replaced by the word "gender" that doesn't imply any discrimination, giving freedom of choice to the individual in opting sexual orientation without binding to heterosexuality.

2005

Title and references:

Pour en finir avec le Sexisme, Carnino, Guillaume, Editions L'Echappée, Paris, 2005
http://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2011/05/26/pour-en-finir-avec-le-sexisme_1527715_3232.html

Theme:

Sexuality / Gender

Short paragraph:

The differences between men and women, often considered innate, are designed by a sexist society. Making a view of situations and the fields in which the social construction of male and female is accomplished (little childhood, games, sexuality, family, advertising, work, etc.), this book questions the origins of men's domination over women. It proposes the theoretical and militant trails to reclaim radically the sexism and patriarchy's foundations.

Undated

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| Title and references: | <i>Behandel ons niet als kleine kinderen</i> , Sociaal, nummer 2, jaargang 17, pp. 3-6 |
| Theme: | Sexuality / Disability |
| Short paragraph: | This article is about sexuality, affection and relation for adults with a mental handicap. Just like people without disability they have the right to grow up, to get sexual education and nurturing, to have sexual contacts and relationships and to live together or marry. |

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