

CONTRIBUTORS and ABSTRACTS

Sława Grzechnik, master of economy, master of social pedagogy, court-appointed guardian. Doctoral student writing the dissertation on *Language and gender in classroom. Critical discourse analysis* at the Institute of Pedagogy (Social Science Department of UG). Subjects of special interest: masculine habitus and performative acts in classroom, position of masculine emotions in the social theory of Pierre Bourdieu and conception of Michel Foucault, discursive psychology, ethical sensitivity in language, special needs education, sexuality of men diagnosed with mental retardation.

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ABSTRACT

The action-inducing force of communication practices and construction of the masculine habitus in a classroom

This article has explored and examined the ways of using the classroom language in primary school by Ethnography of communication (EC) and Critical discourse analysis (CDA). The classroom is a setting in which schoolboys and their social position are located. The causal force of the discursive space seems to be extremely effective in delimitation and incarceration of the mind. The position of every particular schoolboy (and schoolgirl) in this field is a result of the interaction between the specific rules of the field, language, interpretation and illusion. Masculine habitus is created not only by the way of using language and a spectrum of performative acts but also through the knowledge construction process during the learning practice. School is a special place where masculine habitus is produced and reproduced, day by day, according to the logic of the classroom field.

Urszula Kluczyńska, PhD, a graduate of both sociology and pedagogy, is an academic teacher at the Department of Medical Education at the Poznań University of Medical Sciences in Poland. Her research interests include critical studies of men and masculinities, with the emphasis on men's ageing, sport, health caring masculinity and medicalization of masculinity. She is the author of a book published in Poland *Metamorfozy tożsamości mężczyzn w kulturze współczesnej*

[Metamorphoses of Men's Identity in Contemporary Culture] (Wyd. Adam Marszałek 2009), co-editor of the special issue of a quarterly *Studia Humanistyczne AGH* "Men and masculinities in the European dimension" (in English), and author of numerous articles on men and masculinities published in Polish books and journals. ulaku@wp.pl, ulakluczynska@umed.poznan.pl

ABSTRACT

The medicalization of male sexuality

The article presents an analysis of the medicalization of male sexuality. The author demonstrates how medicine has taken control over the male body and sexuality, established norms of sexuality, and also how sexuality is reduced to sexual practices and phallicism. The author makes an attempt to resign from the heteronormative way of perceiving male sexuality – which is supported by medical discourse – and focuses on a variety of ways in which homosexual or transsexual male sexuality is constructed.

Anna Klonkowska, PhD; sociologist, philosopher, psychologist. She works as an assistant professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Journalism, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gdansk; cooperates with the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, Stony Brook University NY; editor-in-chief of *Miscellanea Anthropologica et Sociologica*; her professional interests focus on transgender studies; she runs a support group for transgender people and works as a volunteer for the Trans-Fuzja foundation; wnsak@univ.gda.pl.

ABSTRACT

(Trans)men, (trans)women and sexuality. On social construction of sexuality in relation to transgender people

The paper discusses the concept of sexual orientation of transgender people and the strategies of normativization of the sexuality of transgender people within the expert discourse. The paper is based on a qualitative analysis of transgender people's statements concerning their sexual orientation. Basing on the assumptions of social constructivism, the author of the paper tries to demonstrate that the common way of presenting sex, gender and sexuality referring to the binary categories of description and classification (man/woman, heterosexuality/homosexuality, cisgenderism/transgenderism, etc.) is the construct of a discourse based on the essentialist

concepts of sex, gender and sexuality. In accordance to the Foucauldian concept of power-knowledge, this discourse legitimizes a particular idea of the social order and supports particular strategies of normativization.

Mateusz Kobryn holds a MA in sociology studies from the Maria-Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, specialization: sociology of health and medicine. In his work as a sociotherapist he utilizes the psychodynamic approach. His main research interests include social etiology of mental disorders, social issues of sexuology and innovative solutions for the healthcare system.

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ABSTRACT

The issue of (un)manliness in psychotherapy process

The author tries to demonstrate the relations between sociological concepts of constructing men's gender identity and the theory and practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy. The complexity of the processes (intra-individual and social), in which a man recognizes his gender identity and sexual orientation, causes many theoretical and practical problems which require an interdisciplinary analysis. The article presents the dilemmas associated with different variants of modern man's gender identity and the difficulties for psychotherapists to negotiate them. The author points to the potential of sociological theories calling for the rejection of the category of biological sex, which can serve as inspiration for psychotherapists working with individuals being outside the common scheme of sexuality and gender.

Bartek Lis holds a PhD in sociology, specialization: gender studies; has written a dozen or so articles in the field of the sociology of masculinity, body and sexuality. In 2015 he published a book *Gejowskie (nie)męskości. Normy płciowe a strategie tożsamościowe gejów* [Gay (non)masculinities. Gender norms and the identity strategies of gay men]. He studied gender studies at the University of Warsaw and the University of Oslo. A scholar and organizer of cultural activities, curator of social projects at the Wrocław Contemporary Museum, member of an organisation of Travelling Culture Animators and Sociologists, member of the Foundation of Contemporary Art ART TRANSPARENT,

teacher of methods and techniques of socio-cultural activation in the Post-secondary School for Culture Animators and Librarians in Wrocław.

ABSTRACT

“Male friendship”. A few remarks on the condition of male-to-male relations in contemporary Western culture

In the article the author discusses social frames of the contemporary discourse on male-to-male relations/ meetings in space (of different kinds – casual, everyday; colleague-to-colleague; friend-to-friend), placing an emphasis on those in which one of the subjects is a homosexual male. The author supports his conclusions and commentaries with excerpts from the interviews with gays that he conducted when he was working on his PhD thesis.

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Rafał Majka is a theorist and activist of equality-based social movements; in his PhD thesis he is trying to rethink the socialist strands of radical political philosophy through contemporary poststructuralist theories of culture (affect studies, queer studies, postanarchism, postdevelopmental studies and poststructuralist feminism). His interests include leftist radical political philosophy, grassroots organizing, queer ethics, postanarchism, feminism and cultural studies.

ABSTRACT

Beyond ‘Safer Sex’ – Bareback and the Fetishisation of Unprotected Sex

The article is a critical genealogy of the Western gay post-subculture of barebacking, which emerged during the 90s as a reaction to the pathologization of non-normative sexual practices in the public discourse of HIV/AIDS prevention as well as the heteronormativization of the gay identity by the assimilative LGBT movement; also, it can be read as a breaking away from the – imposed by the dominant (biomedical and social) discursive configuration – narrative of an already (or not yet) socially discarded, and always already deadly (because constructed through the experiences of vulnerability and risk), gay identity. I propose a reading of the post-subculture of barebacking and the bareback porn as a cultural critique of the hegemonic institutional and ideological status quo of the modern world-system with its heteronormative public health

discourse, heteroreproductive social and political philosophies, philosophy of neoliberal individualism, and normative discourse of morality.

Iwona Stasik is an enthusiast of queer theory, gender studies and gender-bending. Personally, a lover of all Swedish things, goods reportages, and amateur football.

ABSTRACT

Drag kings: camp or political involvement? Analysis of the phenomenon of drag: the case of Polish drag kings

This article focuses on the phenomenon of the drag king scene. The author attempts at answering whether drag kings stand-ups are pure amusement, camp performance, or, possibly, an instance of political involvement. The first part of the article examines the theoretical contexts of the performance in question as well as previous research findings. The second part demonstrates the scope of the author's individual studies which included the application of the ethnographic method, together with content analysis techniques, and semi-structured interviewing. The data was collected in 4 interviews with Polish drag king representatives, and in 55 recordings of various performances. The results of the research suggest that political involvement is deeply rooted in drag king stand-ups. However, it is not the only category that can be applied to describe them.

Justyna Struzik is a social researcher and PhD candidate at the Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She coordinates an international research project TRANSFAM. *Doing Family in a Transnational Context*. She is also a member of the board of Women's Space Foundations. She is preparing her PhD dissertation on queer movements in Poland.

ABSTRACT

"We do love each other, we are a gay couple with a dog, and we never have sex". Masculinity and sexuality in the perspective of queer activists in Poland

This article discusses the main characteristics of the politics of masculinity visible within Polish queer movements. In this paper I examine the way in which gay activists define and negotiate their

identity and describe queer collective actions with reference to their gender dimension. The first part of the paper presents a summary of the contemporary approaches to masculinity and also gender perspectives on social movements. In the second part, which is based on semi-structured interviews with queer activists, I draw on various attitudes of the respondents towards a greater visibility of gay identities, the presence of sexuality in the movements' discourses and an internal differentiation of non-heteronormative masculinities.

Wojciech Śmieja (1977) obtained Ph.D. in 2006 at the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. His research focuses on the representations of non-normative sexuality in literature and culture. He is the author of *Literatura, której nie ma. Szkice o polskiej „literaturze homoseksualnej”* [The Literature which doesn't exist. On Polish „homosexual literature”] (Cracow 2010) and *Homoseksualność i polska nowoczesność. Szkice o teorii, historii i literaturze* [Homosexuality and Polish modernity. On theory, history and literature] (Katowice 2015). He is interested in psychoanalysis, queer, gender and men's/masculinity studies.

ABSTRACT

Homo prostheticus. On Jan Żyzowski dylogy

The author discusses two postwar (I World War) novels by painter and graphic designer Jan Żyzowski. The main character, Seweryn Witan, is a disabled person and Żyzowski's novels are unique in documenting the psychological crisis caused by mutilation. His works express a crisis of the dominant traditional, militaristic idea of masculinity (idolized by Sienkiewicz and Żeromski).

Katarzyna Wojnicka, PhD, is a sociologist and works as a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for European Research and in the Department of Sociology and Work Science at the University of Gothenburg. Her current research interests concentrate mostly on critical studies of men and masculinities, sociology of social movements, sociology of everyday life and European studies. She is the author and co-author of over 30 scholarly publications in the gender studies area and is the author of the academic blog *Dr. K & the men*.

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