

ABSTRACTS IN ENGLISH

thematic articles

210

Robert McRuer

Crip

In the essay Robert McRuer develops ideas published in his seminal book *Crip Theory* (2006). After exploring at length the queer etymology and history of the term *crip*, McRuer provides striking new examples of crip political, cultural, and aesthetic strategies, as well as evidence of the vitality of crip as a tool in academic research. In addition to affirming disabled people's sexuality and crip culture, the essay also expands the notion of disability, invoking Alice Cafer, to include forms of embodiment or states of mind beyond the able-minded or able-bodied/disabled dichotomies. In contrast to the more assimilationist and reformist disability theory, crip rejects the medical paradigm that reduces disability to a pathology that needs to be diagnosed and treated, and that encourages individuals to exert themselves in order to overcome or compensate for their disability (in Eli Clare's words – to become supercrips). Instead, crip seeks emancipatory potential in culturally creative and politically radical paradigms of disability.

Key words: *crip, cripple, etymology, definition, strategies, justice*

Hubert Zięba

The AIDS epidemic and the zombie apocalypse in contemporary American cinema

In her 1970s and 1980s essays, Susan Sontag wrote about the metaphorical meanings associated with diseases, including AIDS, their influence on human consciousness, and the fact that they are commonly identified with punishment and otherness. Kylo Patrick R. Hart observed in 2000 that classic Hollywood conventions have been used in feature films dealing with HIV/AIDS. Although cinematographers exploit this theme, they present it as a historical moment associated with the last two decades of the 20th century. Furthermore, it is virtually impossible to find actual depictions of any infectious diseases apart from those which are not real. In this article, I am combining and complementing Sontag's and Hart's theories to show that the popular figure of zombie depicted in *World War Z* (dir. Marc Forster, 2013) copies negative stereotypes about certain communities associated to them in connection with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Key words: *HIV, AIDS, disease, metaphor, zombie, science-fiction, horror, cinema, film*

Rafał Syska

Lucas Moodysson's Container: the hump of the ugly body

The article is an in-depth analysis of the film *Container* (2006) directed by Lukas Moodysson, portraying the inner world of psycho-physical experiences of transsexual person. The analysis explores two contexts that are fundamental for this movie: on the one hand, the evolution of Lukas Moodysson's works and, on the other, transformations in the way of showing transvestites and transsexuals from classical films to new queer cinema.

Key words: *film, body, transsexuality, art film, subjective narration*

Jeremy Bell

Uncanny erotics: on Hans Bellmer's Souvenirs of the Doll

The German-born Surrealist artist and writer Hans Bellmer is currently most famous for the two dolls he created in Berlin during the 1930s, alongside accompanying photographs and texts. Controversial for the challenging and oftentimes sexually graphic character of his work, Bellmer has often been criticized by feminist thinkers. Beginning with the recently hosted Double Sex exhibition in Berlin, where his work was presented alongside that of Louise Bourgeois, and then examining his doll photographs and other works, I argue that—far from reifying gender norms—Bellmer deconstructs the stability of the male ego.

Key words: *Hans Bellmer, Louise Bourgeois, body, erotics, doll, masculinity*

Anna Filipowicz

From campy burlesque to (post)constructivist performace: On wearing dentures in the poetry of Miron Białoszewski

The current "materialist turn" encourages us to rethink the potential of gender and queer studies by confronting their scope with reflections on that which is real and tangible. Such reflections are vital when dealing with the problem of the body immersed in the empirical condition of illness, and particularly with the disabled body requiring grafts and prostheses. Such a body is sometimes conceived as a sign of subjectivity "in motion," always ready for an identity "assemblage" and a relational becoming-with-the-other. Equipped with replacements, the disabled body eludes power/knowledge regimes, gaining a new political potential which can be both subversive and emancipatory. Miron Białoszewski's *The School of False Teeth* (1978) can be viewed as a synthesis of the poet's queer anticipations and his early interest in the posthuman body. The predicament of the denture wearer prompts reflections on both the discursive aspect of material reality and that which resists the power of discourse. Thus the poem about wearing dentures reveals the backstage of the "theater of social roles," namely, the construction of the normative identity of the human being as creator, sexual partner, and participant in everyday life. Wearing dentures also serves as a pretext for more fundamental ontological investigations, for questioning the boundary between subject and object, and between biological existence and its technological extension. Because of the prosthetic device, the unbeautiful, disabled, and increasingly non-human body reveals its capacity for queer performativity, but also for a different kind of performativity firmly anchored in the real which has agency. This makes the subject in Białoszewski's verse open to a hybrid existence which is always the effect of being-in-relation and of constant negotiations with objects which dictate conditions. In effect, the poetic reflection on such a non-essential identity clearly exceeds the framework of the poststructuralist paradigm. The image of the human co-constituted with dentures is best understood as an exploration that anticipates posthumanism.

Key words: *new materialism, "the turn to things", agency of things, burlesque, camp, disability, prosthesis (denture)*

Izabela Ślęzak

Disabled men as clients of massage parlors: The sex-workers' perspective

Although scholars have increasingly been raising the topic of sexuality in recent years, the general knowledge within this field remains partial and based on stereotypes. The ways in which disabled persons fulfill their sexual needs are taboo, especially if they relate to other tabooed spheres, such as commercial sexual services. Meanwhile, the disabled are a category of clients who visit sex workers. As a result, we encounter a specific situation in which socially marginalized persons (sex workers) meet disabled individuals, who are not only socially excluded but also deprived of the means to fulfill their sexual needs. Presenting the perspective of women who, as providers of sexual services in escort agencies, have encountered disabled clients, this article examines the women's perception of the disabled men's sexual needs, and the way they define their role in fulfilling those needs. Furthermore, the article asks how the female sex workers' perception of the disabled men's bodies accounts for their reluctance to accept them as clients. The empirical data forming the basis of the article come from unstructured interviews focused on the female escort agency employees' work situation. Analytical procedures associated with grounded theory were used to analyze the data.

Key words: *escort agencies, sex work, prostitution, men with disabilities, sexual needs*

212

non-thematic articles

Joanna Bednarek

Bartleby and Michael K., or, why only a man can become-other?

Much has been written about Bartleby, literary character created by Herman Melville; the most popular interpretations of his famous phrase 'I would prefer not to' tend to present it as a form of political or pre-political resistance. The origin of this profusion of commentaries on Bartleby is Gilles Deleuze's essay *Bartleby, or the Formula*, which, however, foregrounds not resistance, but becoming-other: the process of departure from the dominant, majoritarian standard of the masculine, European, capitalist and Oedipal identity. But it is only the majoritarian subject mentioned above that can undergo this process. The other, thanks to whom becoming is possible, plays only ancillary or instrumental role. In case of Melville's story, the real protagonist is therefore the nameless narrator, and not Bartleby. Becoming is thus the adventure reserved for the majoritarian subject. Deleuze seems not to be aware of this limitation of his concept. Coetzee's novel is, in this context, able to demonstrate (on the example of necessary failure of the relationship between the protagonist and the doctor intent of 'understanding' him) the asymmetry of two terms of becoming, as well as to deconstruct the hierarchy implicit in the concept of becoming.

Key words: *becoming, Deleuze and Guattari, Bartleby, Coetzee*

Monika Kłosowska
Against Methodology

In the article I critically examine my own research process based on unstructured interviews concerning the interviewees' lives as women. Inspired by feminist methodology and, above all, by queer theory, I reassess my prior resolutions. I pay attention to the ethical problems ensuing from the interviewer-interviewee relation, particularly in cases involving deep intimacy and sexual relations before, during, or after the interview. Having contemplated the experiences of foreign academics, I arrive at the conclusion that only revealing the context of the conversation in the form of a commentary and publishing the full, unedited interview can make the interviewer-interviewee relation less hierarchical, though even this is not enough to dispel all the moral dilemmas accompanying social research.

Key words: *social science, queer methodology, autoethnography, ethics, non-hierarchicality*

Paulina Szkudlarek
Japanese liberties and their limitations from the perspective of queer studies

This paper is an attempt to overview life strategies of those people in Japan, whose experiences have fallen outside the scheme of heteronormative roles. The modes of resistance to hegemonic notions are analysed in their historical context, including the origins and popularity gaining, however the main point is to reveal the withdrawal of hegemony of numerous outdated social norms. The analysis of selected examples is done engaging with Japanese gender theories as well as western queer approach.

Key words: *Japan, queer studies, gender studies*

Ewa Dec
Queering the lesbian (non)identity in the short stories of Agnieszka Kłós

The article is an attempt to reinterpret familiar feminist and psychoanalytic theories by applying them to a series of lesbian-themed short stories. Reading selected literary texts through a queer lens that is critical of normative identities, Ewa Dec posits a lesbian (non)identity and highlights a lesbian queer language.

Key words: *Agnieszka Kłós, lesbian identity, gender, psychoanalysis*

Aneta Dybska
The lymphatic system of a democratic metropolis: sexuality and urban space in the AIDS era New York

This paper examines the contested nature of New York's public spaces in the 1980s and 1990s through the lens of Lefebvre's notion of „the right to the city.” With particular attention to the loss of public sex culture to gentrification and neoliberal policies of urban growth, this paper points to the interplay of such factors as the AIDS epidemic, homophobia, and homelessness, which inhibit the achievement social justice for sexual minorities. When the New York authorities closed down spaces crucial for the articulation of urban counterpublics – such as bath houses, piers, and Times Square sexual establishments – they delegitimized queer forms of desire and displaced various

urban subjects already marginalized by race, class, homelessness, and AIDS. While the past destruction is irreversible, more recent grassroots initiatives relying on the right to the city rhetoric have been able to mobilize fragmented urban counterpublics in a successful bid for certain contested spaces.

Key words: *AIDS epidemic, gentrification, homophobia, homelessness, right to the city, queer counterpublics*

Kornelia Kajda i Tomasz Michalik

Made in Sachsenhausen. Recontextualization and reappropriation of the pink triangle symbol among gay and lesbian groups in North America as an example of the symbolic theft

The processes of recontextualization and reappropriation are said to be the basic ways to neutralize the stigma that is imposed on the sexual minority groups. In light to such processes this article looks at the issue of changing connotations and meanings of the historically strongly conditioned symbol of the pink triangle. By the investigation of different contexts in which the symbol occurs today – commemorative, emancipatory, and connected with pop-culture – the authors undertake the reflection on the consequences related to the attempts to disconnect the pink triangle from the Holocaust symbolism. Additionally, through the usage of the theft metaphor, the authors pay attention to the fact that the limitations of property rights apply not only to material items, but also to symbolic values. On the basis the J. Butler’s performativity concept, A. Croom’s understanding of reappropriation and E. Goffman’s concept of social stigma, the paper analyzes the ways the pink triangle symbol is used in the framework of contemporary discourses created in the USA. The main question concerns the issue of property. To whom does the pink triangle belong? To the ex-prisoners for whom it is stigmatizing, or to LGBT groups, who wear it with pride, or maybe to the users of contemporary culture, who use it as a supplement to different kinds of gadgets?

Key words: *pink triangle, symbolism, holocaust, stigma, pop culture*

Monika Sznal

The Production of Homonormative Subjects. The Market Discourse on Regulation of Civil Unions in Poland and Same-sex Marriages in the United States in 2013

May the free market play an emancipatory role for those who are at odds with the traditional model of gender roles? The article examines the debates on civil union legalization in Poland and same-sex marriages in the United States with respect to the potential free-market discourse’s impact on contemporary sexual citizenship. As it appears, the metropolitan concept of homonormativity is a product of the free-market economy, while terms such as the “creative class”, “tolerance” or “diversity” constitute a global production of exclusive homonormative identity.

Key words: *civil unions, Poland, USA, neoliberalism, homonormativity*