

Humans for Humans

Gender, Desire Embodiment

October 18, 2023. 1014 Fifth Avenue; New York, NY

With Jack Halberstam and Meg Fernandes

Basics on our topics

[Introduction to Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies](#), 2017

by Miliann Kang, Donovan Lessard, Laura Heston, Sonny Nordmarken

University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Open Textbook Library. Creative Commons. This is an open access book, which means you should be able to find it and read it for free online. In very accessible language, it takes up our subjects for tonight and much more. Gives a sense of the academic fields related to gender issues.

Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, Sex” in *Sister Outsider*, 1984, 2007, Crossing Press, Random House. Brilliant essayist and poet. Lorde addresses gender, desire, embodiment in her numerous essays, poems and *Zami, A New Spelling of My Name. A Biomythography*, 1982 (Crossing Path).

Don Kulick, “The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes” originally appeared in *American Anthropologist* 99/3 (1997), pp. 574-84. Can also be found in the great anthology *The Masculinities Studies Reader* (2002), eds. Rachel Adams and David Savran (which has a fabulous essay by Halberstam “An Introduction to Female Masculinity,” too). In Irene’s experience teaching these subjects, Kulick’s essay offers one of the clearest examples of how gender, sex, and sexuality are not the same thing, are culturally inflected, and combine fluidly to accommodate various desires and purposes.

Selected Publications by our Experts

Meg Fernandes, *I Do Everything I’m Told. Poems* (2023, Tin House)

Good Boys. Poems (2020, Tin House)

The Kingdom and After (2015, Tightrope Books)

Jack Halberstam, *Wild Things: The Disorder of Desire* (2020, Duke University Press)

Trans: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability* (2012, Beacon Press)

The Queer Art of Failure (2011, Duke University Press)

Podcasts

“We Need Better Narratives About Gender” a conversation between Masha Gessen and Lydia Polgreen on the Ezra Klein Show, October 10, 2023. What it means to understand queer life more expansively.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/10/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-masha-gessen-oct-2023.html>

Judith Butler, *Who’s Afraid of Gender?* A forthcoming book by the philosopher and explicator of concept of gender as social construction and performance, to be released in March 2024. You can listen to Butler talk about the ideas in that book in many sources available online, like a YouTube

recording of a lecture at Oxford University sponsored by Q+@cam.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yD6UukSbAMs>

Further Readings

Maggie Nelson, *The Argonauts* (2016, Graywolf Press)

Paul Preciado, *Testo-Junkie: Sex, Drugs and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era* (2013, The Feminist Press; first published in French and Spanish 2008)

Jordy Rosenberg, *Confessions of the Fox: A Novel* (2018, Random House)

Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* (2018, University of Minnesota Press)

Dean Spade, "For Lovers and Fighters" in *We Don't Need Another Wave: Dispatches from the Next Generation of Feminists*, ed. Melody Berger (2006, Seal Press)

Dean Spade, "Mutilating Gender" in *The Transgender Studies Reader*, Vol. I, eds. Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, (2006, Routledge)

Hortense Spillers, "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe" in *Black, White, and In Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture* (Chicago 2003)

José Esteban Muñoz, "Introduction: Feeling Utopia" in *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* (2009, New York University Press, pp. 1-18)

Queer Poetry recommended by Meg

KB Brookins, *Freedom House*. (2023, Deep Vellum)

Jameson Fitzpatrick, *Pricks in the Tapestry*. (2020, Birds)

Taylor Johnson, *Inheritance*. (2020, Alice James Books)

Maggie Millner, *Couplets: A Love Story*. (2023, Farrar, Straus, Giroux)

Jay Gao, *Imperium*. (2022, Carcaret)

Films (very short selection; there's a lot out there)

Bigger on the Inside (2022) dir Angelo Madsen Minax (recommended by Meg)

Chicken Run (2000) dir Peter Lord, Nick Park (recommended by Jack)

Girl (2018) dir Lukas Dhant (recommended by Irene)

More? the New York Public Library has put together an extensive list on "Trans and Nonbinary Reads for Adults" that can be found at:

<https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/trans-reads/adults>