

SOC633

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WEEK 2

Moral Regulation of Sex

Morality & Sex: What is Morality

- Beliefs about what is right behaviour and what is wrong behaviour; the degree to which something is right and good; the moral goodness or badness of something
- What is moral when we talk about sex? Can be based on our religious beliefs, social norms, etc.
 - Cheating is immoral, etc.

Schools of Thought on Sex

- Three historical intellectual traditions that have dominated western societies thinking about sex:
 - Spiritual
 - Biological
 - Social
- What is Sex? How is sex moral? - Does it inhere in certain affective states (love), physiological responses (excitement), specific actors (males with females) or specific acts (vaginal penetration by an erect penis)
 - Many teens engage in oral and other sex acts but think they're virgin because they haven't had intercourse
 - Penetration and male agency (men must have sex to be "real" men)
 - Heterosexuality - presumed sex is hetero because culturally defined as such
 - Vaginal specification - site of activity for male penetration
 - Orgasm, pleasure and love - culmination of a sexual encounter
 - Consent - sex doesn't require enjoyment or consent on the part of the recipient

Essentialism & Sex

- Essentialism - characteristics of person or groups are largely similar in all human cultures and historical periods, since they are significantly influenced by biological factors
- Fundamental essence that inheres in the objects and features of the world - it exists independently of culture and human discernment - often will claim biology and nature as arguments

Social Construction of Sex

- Research starts in 1890's
- Debate starts about whether sex is instinctual or not - body of research looks at sex from moralistic of 'social problem' approach
- Social constructionism - theoretical perspective that argues that our perception of what is real is defined only by the meaning that we attribute to a given situation

Social Construction vs. Essentialism

- SC: concept of certain people being predisposed to love only one sex (thus being homo- or heterosexuals) is inaccurate concept invented by modern Western society, and does not accurately describe how human sexuality develops in other cultures
- ES: concept of people being "homosexuals" and "heterosexuals" accurately reflects unchangeable reality which holds true for all cultures in all of history and thus that a person's homosexuality or heterosexuality constitutes an unchangeable "essence"

Homophobia (*How do these bodies of thought fight homophobia based on their views?*)

- Essentialists typically try to promote queer rights through arguing that gay people 'can't help' being queer (because of bio and nature)

- Say that giving queer people equal rights to marry and not be discriminated against will not cause anyone else to become queer
- Social constructionist typically try to promote queer rights by talking about other cultures where all members of society were expected to have same-sex relationships

Michel Foucault

- French philosopher known as grandfather of queer theory and central architect of 'construct' conception of sexuality
- Seeks to make sense of how our contemporary society is structured differently from society that preceded us
- He overturns accepted wisdom, illustrating the dangers in those Enlightenment reforms that were designed to correct the barbarity of previous periods (elimination of dungeons, modernization of medicine, etc.)
- He explores the ways that government has claimed ever greater control over and enforcement of ever more private aspects of our lives.
- Explores the transition from a "culture of spectacle" to a "carceral culture"
 - In former punishment there were public displays of torture, dismemberment, in later punishment become internalized and directed to the constitution and rehab of social subjects
- Bentham argued the perfect prison would be structured in a way that cells would be open to a central tower
 - Individuals in the cells don't interact w/ each other and are constantly confronted by the panoptic tower (PT); (pan=all; optic=seeing).
 - They can't see when there's a person in the tower; must believe they could be watched at any moment
- To maintain order in a democratic and capitalist society, populace needs to believe that any person could be surveilled at any time; would ensure that ppl would internalize the PT and police themselves
- This system of control has been aided by new tech advancements that allow feds to track your movement and behavior (internet, cell, social security numbers, and surveillance cameras)
- carceral culture: culture in which the panoptic model of surveillance has been diffused as a principle of social organization, affecting such disparate things as the university classroom; urban planning; hospital and factory architecture; and so on.
- Panopticon is polyvalent in its applications; reforms prisoner, treats pts, instruct schoolchildren, confine the insane, supervise workers
- When dealing w/ a large # of individuals on whom a task or behaviour must be imposed, panoptic schema may be used
- Panoptic schema was destined to spread throughout the social body

Is Foucault responsible for confusion surrounding biology vs. choice debate that still takes place today? Yes - because his work was taken out of context by liberals and social conservatives

WEEK 3

Invention of Heterosexuality

Before & The Start of Heterosexuality

Early Victorian True Love, 1820-1860

- Heterosexual did not exist in United States in 19th century
- Middle-class white Americans idealized "true Womanhood, True Manhood, and True Love" - idea of *purity* (freedom from sensuality)
 - Fine romance with no lascivious kisses
- True love realized via proper procreation, marriage, legal organization for producing correctly gendered women and men
- Actors were manly men and womanly women as procreators (not erotic or heterosexuals)
- True women had a distance from lust

- True men lived closer to carnality with less control and aspired to be distant from lust
- Natural desire was meant for procreation - penis and vagina were tools solely for babies
- Human energy was not to be wasted on pleasures but on work and baby making
- Temple of purity (true love) was threatened by masturbation

Late Victorian Sex-Love, 1860-1892

- Use of words "heterosexuality" and "homosexuality"
- Modern idea of eroticized universe began to develop
- Early theorists and defenders of man-man love
- *Walt Whitman - Leaves of Grass* (new male-female lustiness)
 - **Section 1: Children of Adam**
 - Evokes sexual procreational intercourse of men and women
 - Showed women engaging in sex lustily and equally with men to conceive robust babies
 - **Section 2: Calamus**
 - Detailed acts of erotic communion between men
 - "Armative" relations between men and women; "adhesive" intimacies between men
 - Attempt to put male-female and male-male eroticisms together as natural "healthy" division of human erotic responses
- *Karl Heinrich Ulrichs* - created new sexual names to defend love of men who loved other men - "Uming"
 - Uming's sex-love for a True Man was as natural as "Dioning-love" of True Man and True Woman
- *Karl Maria Kertbeny* - coined the words "heterosexual" and "homosexual"
 - *Heterosexualitat* - strong lust drive towards "opposite sex" intercourse (associated with numbers of morally reprehensible acts)
 - Same sense as another one of his terms known as "*normalsexualitat*"
- *Richard Krafft-Ebing* - use of word "heterosexual" distinguished from homosexual
 - Homosexual emancipation manner appropriated by Krafft-Ebing and other men to name, condemn and assert their own right to regulate a group of homoerotic creatures
 - Helped to ensure conformity of majority to a new sex ethic which was congruent with pursuit of consumer happiness and capitalist profit
- Late 19th century in USA, consciousness, behaviour, emotions and identity were eroticized - became typical of 20th century Western middle class
- Family went from producer to consumer unit - caused a shift in family members' relation to their own bodies
 - From instrument primarily of work to being perceived as means of consumption and pleasure
- Erotic became raw material for new consumer culture - newspapers, books, plays, and films touched on sex, "normal" and "abnormal" became available
- Restaurants, bars, baths were opened for sexual consumers with cash
- Rise in power of medical doctors allowed prescription of healthy new sexuality - defined new idea of male-female relationships that included a necessary normal eroticism in men and women
- Previously, women who enjoyed sex were seen as nymphomaniacs but women who lacked sexual pleasure was labeled with mental disturbance - female "frigidity"

Heterosexuality: The First Years, 1892-1900

- Period of time during which the ideas of heterosexual and homosexual were formulated by USA doctors
- "Heterosexual" first used by American in medical journal article by James G. Kieman - but described heterosexuals as having mental condition (psychical hermaphroditism)
 - Symptoms: inclination to both sexes; abnormal methods of gratification (sans procreation)
 - Double deviance from gender and procreative norms

- Kieman stated normal sexuals were defined by monolithic other-sex inclination and procreative aim - but still lacked a name
- Pure homosexuals were considered to have general mental state of the opposite sex
 - Defined by their deviant from a gender norm
- Kraft-Ebing and Kieman did not agree on the definition of heterosexual
 - Ebing's heterosexual was desire for opposite sex, homosexuals had desire for the same sex, and psycho-sexual hermaphroditism was mixed impulses towards both sexes
 - Ebing hypothesized there was an inborn "sexual instinct" for relations with the "opposite sex" - for procreation
- Charles Hughes - assured medical men that medical treatment (hypnosis and surgery) could help 'revert' the mind and feelings to 'normal' channels
 - Assumed hetero- and homosexuals could be reverted back to being 'normal'
- Finally, doctors began to refer to heterosexual as 'normal, other-sex' eros - became new standard model for modern regularization and allowed for attempts to standardize masculinity and femininity
 - Let heterosexuality become the master sex - everything else was 'deviant' - made the erotic world safer for sex 'normals'

The Distribution of the Heterosexual Mystique: 1900-1930

- Heterosexuality became dominant culture
- Heterosexuality was associated with human "need", "drive" or "instinct" for procreation
 - In early 20th century, falling birth rate, rising divorce rates, and war of sexes of the middle class were growing public concerns
 - Heterosexuality was praised for baby making capacity, marital intimacy and family stability
- Basic gender divergence - "oppositeness" of sexes was alleged to be basis for universal, normal, erotic attraction between males and females
 - Focused on physiological and gender dimorphism - gender anxieties about shifting work, social roles, power of men over women, ideals of womanhood and manhood, etc.
 - Andromaniacs were women who tried to minimize distinctions between men and women - derogatory term
- Sexuality - focus on hedonistic possibilities of male-female conjunctions also reflected a social transformation
 - Revalued pleasure and procreation, consumption and work in commercial, capitalist society
 - Normal lust to females as well as males authorized women's enjoyment of their bodies and began to undermine the True Woman
 - Undercut feminist assertion of women's moral superiority, cast suspicions of lust on women's passionate romantic friendships with women, and asserted presence of menacing female monster - "lesbian"
- Sex-conservatives (advocates of censorship and repression) tried to fight against the depiction of sexual perversity and new normal heterosexuality
 - More open depiction of normal sex had to be defended - or else would be assumed Victorian True Love had no legitimate eros
 - Before 1930 in USA, Mary Ware Dennet (author of 21-page sex education pamphlet) was found guilty of mailing this "obscene" essay

The Heterosexual Steps Out: 1930-1945

- 1930 - in *The New York Times*, heterosexuality first became a love that dared to speak its name
 - First use of word in book review - Critic described subject of Andre Gide's *The Immoralist* proceeding "from a heterosexual liaison to a homosexual one"
 - Also first mention of new hetero/homo duo
- Second mention of hetero/homo duo in book review - comment on Floyd Dell's *Love in the Machine Age* - used dire threat of homosexuality as his rationale for greater heterosexual freedom
 - Warned that current abnormal social conditions kept the young still dependant on their

- parents causing "infantilism, prostitution and homosexuality"
- Heterosexuality became a nationally cited aspect of middle-class life
- Kinsey Continuum
 - The hetero/homo division was not nature's doing - only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into separated pigeonholes
 - Created a scale that rates levels of homosexuality
 1. Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual thought and/or action
 2. Predominantly heterosexual, only incidental homosexual thought and/or action
 3. Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidental homosexual thoughts and/or actions
 4. Equally heterosexual and homosexual
 5. Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidental heterosexual thoughts and/or actions
 6. Predominantly homosexual, only incidental heterosexual thought and/or action
 7. Exclusively homosexual with no heterosexual thought and/or action

WEEK 4

Week 4

Media Representation

- Media - communication channels through which news, entertainment, education, data, or promotional messages are disseminated
 - Includes broadcasting and narrowcasting medium such as newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, billboards, direct mail, telephone, fax, and internet

Teen sex and media and connection between the two

- In the absence of effective sex education at home or at school, the media have become leading sex educators in Canada
 - Recent survey of nearly 2400 grade 10 and 12 students in Saskatchewan found only 1/3 of teens felt they could talk to their parents about sex
- Teens are easily influenced starting to construct who they are - estimated 14,000 references to sex per year on television alone
- Media having direct impact to how our future society is being shaped - 3 studies have found a cause-and-effect relationship between viewing sexual content in the media and earlier age at first sexual intercourse
- Avg. teens spend 3-4 hours per day on TV, more time a week watching TV than in class rooms
- Avg. of 8.5 hrs of sexual interaction during the 90's from the 70-90's - 276% increase in sex messages in prime time family hours
- No education behind it
- Steady decrease in use of condoms in the younger generation
- Rate of teen pregnancy has been on the rise in the past 10 years
- Highest rate of chlamydia and gonorrhea among teenage girls in Canada
- 1/2 of all HIV infections are occurring in youth below the age of 18 - rates are increasing in heterosexual women
 - Assume that because they're on the morning after pill or BCP, they are safe from everything

Strasburger (2016) article - *Teenage Sex and the Media*

- Parents don't want to have the discussion about sex but have a lot of concerns regarding what the media has portrayed - they are scared about what the kids are learning from shows and their peers
- 2400 grade 10 and 12 students found that only 1/3 of teens found that they could talk to their parents about sex
 - Nearly 1/2 of these HS students were already engaging in sex
- Parents' leading concern are around porn on the internet but they seldom realize the high

numbers their children are getting from movies and TV shows - about 14,000 references to sex per year on TV alone

- Media has become extremely explicit in what they say and what they do in regards to sexual subjects
- The way we view things has changed greatly - before we used to be banned from watching the Simpsons and Family Guy but now it's the go to for kids - it's become normal to see boobs and body parts in normal day time TV where as before it used to be stuff that played after 11 pm
- More than 75% of American shows now have sexual content - but less than 60% have provided any responsible sexual information regarding abstinence, birth control, STI's, etc.
- They're spending on avg. an extra 3 hours per day on video games and social media, etc. - very little info regarding social media though because teens spend 24/7 on social media and their phones so it's assumed it plays a huge role
- Super-peer group - media goes around making teens believe that everyone out there is having sex except for them; tells you that sex is without risk or consequence and birth control is unnecessary
- On avg., viewing a lot of sexual content at a younger age will lower the age of intercourse by 1 year
- 8 studies have found that making condoms available in school based clinics have no relation to youth having sex earlier
- Media can be a very powerful teacher about sex and sexuality; that the availability of contraception does not influence a teen's decision to have sex because now it's a social norm among youth
- Decision to have sex is deeply influenced by fam, religion, peers, and now more influenced by media
- Adolescents may be particularly vulnerable to sexual messages on TV:
 - Teens may not be sufficiently cognitively developed to discern and critique messages from TV
 - These messages are bombarding teens at a state when they are in the midst of developing their values and beliefs around gender roles, sexual behaviours and attitudes
 - Teens spend a great deal of time watching TV

Women as Sexual Objects

- Women become sexual objects when their bodies and their sexuality are linked to products that are bought and sold
- Provocative images of women with exposed body parts and limited clothing are the norm in media today - women's bodies are used specifically to attract attention in advertisements to sell merchandise
- This sexualizes women's body parts and is linked to products
- Women's bodies are most often dismembered into legs, breasts or thighs - reinforces message that women are objects rather than whole human beings
- *"Get the body you really want....How to get his attention"; "What men really want....how to get skinny"*
 - Offered a pseudo-sexuality that makes it far more difficult to discover our own unique and authentic sexuality
- In g-rated movies, female leads were used for their appearance and their aim was to get the lead guy's love
 - Romance often has a much darker side in the media - women are portrayed as child like, innocent and vulnerable - being vulnerable is often most closely linked to being a victim of sexual assault
 - Ad for fetish scent used to imply that women don't really mean no when they say it and are teasing when they deny a man - "apply generously to your neck so he can smell the scent as you shake your head no"
- Sex in the media is too much and is too blatant in its portrayal and engages kids at much too young of an age

- Sex in the media has far more to do with trivializing sex than with promoting it - the problem is not that it's sinful but that it's synthetic and cynical
- Argued in conclusion that we are being offered a pseudo-sexuality that makes it far more difficult to discover our own unique and authentic sexuality

Broken Trust - Reading

- Newfoundland - highly catholic influenced area
- Article looks at the schools; children are wards of the state
- It was run by the priest and the brotherhood; rampant sexual violence
- One of the boys gets out, gets adopted by a judge and his wife
- We seen an inquiry, an idea that the church is using its power
- Media extremely concerned about going up against the catholic church
- It becomes national news, never discussed that the church still uses its powers to ward off investigations, block prosecutions, and to keep the boys from speaking up, etc.
- Why did the mainstream media never really attack the church? The real story never came out until the massive coverage
 - Because of the church being considered to be the moral instigator, it becomes hard for many to point a finger at the church and by definition the Pope, and God.
- Church quickly settled cases outside of the court to avoid investigations and charges, many media outlets were paid off to avoid being discovered, the church also took out members of the school and distributed elsewhere
- Allegations came up again from youth - the church then offers a monetary settlement with the boys through lawyers so that they remain silent - if they speak up the money comes back

Girls, Media, and the Negotiation of Sexuality - Reading

- Went to 2 middle schools - 1 is upper class 94% of population is white and they view media differently to downtown inner-city school (mostly black and latino population)
- Basically everything that media shows to target population (white teenage girls) is untrue and unattainable
- Girls of colours and low socioeconomic background are more hard hit by these issues
 - Mental health issues
 - Eating disorders
 - Body shaming, etc.
- Themes of heterosexuality are crisscrossing the girls' identities with their peer groups and to secure their relationships with the broader social world - heterosexuality is the norm - often normal to hear the words "gay", "queer", "faggot", etc., at school
- Article discusses how portrayal is embedded in 4 specific ways
 - Discipline of the body - in some way shape or form, girls worked to get a body that was attractive to the social world via dieting, clothing, make up, hair, critiquing fashion, etc. (same for girls from both schools)
 - Brides and mothers - women being depicted as brides and as mothers
 - UPPER MIDDLE CLASS - most girls had high class magazines that promoted what is meant to be feminine - you're eventually meant to be this beautiful bride, etc.
 - OTHER SCHOOL - the idea of a women was more socially constructed to be geared towards being religious and how to be the ideal type of mother
 - Homophobia and sexual confusion - most openly discussed in both schools; gossip about sexual orientation was frequent and used as a way to put others down
 - Iconic femininity - made in reference to media figures who promote or embody what is considered to be feminine - upheld certain celebrities who they thought were the idea feminine woman

WEEK 5

Heart of Whiteness - J. Carter

- Early 20th century emergence as the ideal of the "normal" American, through which a particular kind of person came to be perceived as uniquely modern, uniquely qualified for Citizenship uniquely natural and healthy
- Modern, normal persons were defined in large part through powerfully racialized understanding of sexuality - Norma and Norman represented white heterosexuality
 - Dramatized connection between "normal" modes of erotic intimacy and important cultural meanings of "whiteness"
- The normal is being in a married relationship between a white man and white woman
- Normality discourse drew on and extended on concepts of civilization and evolution
- Normality made it possible to discuss relationships - you take away the power dynamic
- When this idea was challenged, many white heterosexuals tried to say they were not part of this power dynamic and that it 'just happened'
- Appealed through evolutionary sciences as to why this happened - allowed them to be racist - "this how a strong race comes about" - suggests that white race is more superior and stronger
- Whites were considered to be superior to everybody else and were normalized as being the race we wanted to see continue on - made heterosexuality the norm so that procreation could occur
- Normality discourse focuses on marriage, love and babies and the importance of a carefully disciplined reproductive discourse to have continued progress of the
- Mostly began in the south of US and was heavily based on religious views as well

What is normal? This is what research tells us

- In Canada in 2015 – 35,851,774
 - Male 17,776,71 vs Female 18,075,055
 - Mean Age: total: 41.7 years; male: 40.4 years vs female: 42.9 years
- In 2011, Asia was Canada's biggest source of foreign born population
- About 6.2 million people identified of a visible minority group - 30% were born in Canada, and 65% were born outside of the country and came to live here
- South Asians, Chinese and Blacks are most amount of visible minority population (then follows Filipinos, Japanese, etc.)
- Relates to sex due to fertility rates
 - In recent years, number of births have been higher than in the 90's
 - Due to higher rates of fertility particularly for women in their 30's
 - Visible minorities tend to be younger and having higher rates of births
 - Fastest growing rate of minority in Canada is the Indigenous peoples - median age is 25 - younger population in their prime fertile years
 - Median age for mother's first birth in Canada = 21 years old

Racism in Dating - Discussion

- Selective interest in some races over others. Why do people place "only into ____" on their dating/hook-up profiles
- Doll test
 - Black children shown two dolls - one black and one white
 - Majority of black children chose white doll when asked:
 - Which is the nicer doll?
 - Which is prettier doll?
 - Majority of black children chose black doll when asked:
 - Which is the bad doll?
 - Which is the uglier doll?
- Many women of colour will try to cosmetically change their physical appearance - skin bleaching, nose jobs, eye lid surgeries, hair dyeing, etc.

Dragon Ladies, Snow Queens, Asian-American Dykes - Reflectin on Race and Sexuality

- Role of the church/religion within many ethnic/racialized groups - silencing of sex and of subjective, private feelings by the Roman Catholic Church
 - If run-of-the-mill sexuality is taboo for conversations then how would other types of sexualities be treated?
 - Lim-Hing stayed in the closet as a lesbian though her sister knew - once her family knew as well they seemed to be okay with it but they would not invite her to weddings because they didn't think she would want to dress up for heterosexual unions
 - Asian families want to push their children to marry straight and procreate so that they can at least have 1 male child - they couldn't do that with Lim-Hing

Sexual Understanding Informing Racial Understanding

- Non-Asian people will see her and instantly label her as Asian - but White people do not get this same treatment - they can be called a variety of things, but for Asians, there is only that ONE grouping
- "Asian invisibility in what is called the 'gay community'"
 - She felt unwanted, was called a chink, was asked to leave by other Lesbian women - all because we have appreciated white standards of beauty so much that anything other than that is not attractive
 - Was being discriminated in the gay community for being a different race
- Slang to describe gay Asians who lust chiefly after white people: *snow queen* or *potato queen*
- Subculture of gay community - community of pariahs and radicals - Asians find that even there, they are alien entities
- Racism and homophobia are 2 different forms of oppression that have similar and different sources, that function differently, and have different effects

Interracial Marriages

- Increase in interracial marriages since 1991
 - Heavy belief earlier that you should only marry within your own race
 - Lots of familial pressure to marry within same race and religion, etc.
- Lots of discrimination against interracial couples - especially for adoption (higher chances of being rejected)
- More acceptable for a white man to date a girl from a different race rather than a white girl trying to date someone from a different race

Not all Transgender People have Dysphoria

- Distress or discomfort that occurs when the gender someone is assigned does not align with their actual gender
- However, there are many trans folks who don't experience dysphoria and are afraid to open up about it
 - Admitting the lack of dysphoria seems to threaten the trans community - waters down the struggles they have to go through
- We should **not** define transgender people on the basis of dysphoria because:
 - It suggests that gender identity is for outsiders to decide
 - It medicalizes the experience of being transgender
 - It's a Eurocentric definition of transgender - doesn't acknowledge that transness can exist outside of the Western world
 - It equates being trans with distress and dysfunction
 - It gives us the chance to privilege some narratives over others
 - It breeds transphobia - if trans people start questioning other trans people with disbelief then cis people can start doing it to

WEEK 6

Queering Social Psychology

Keyhole history (Brook 2009)

- An approach to history that attempts to deal with the 'empirical' crisis brought about by globalization
- Globalization as increasing transplanetary connectivity
- *Whose history gets privileged?*
- Examining history from multiple perspectives across time and space **keyholes**

What is Queer?

- How can we define a word like "queer" when it came into existence as an attempt to eschew classification?
- Dean's definition
 - *Queer is meant as an 'open signifier'. The word 'queer' is meant to be broad and discursive combination of various identity, political and sociological categories of people. Its broad use has lent to its ambiguous meaning. Often, it strives to be a singular label for a 'multiplicity' - a large combination of difference existing in unity. It also 'misidentifies' the deviant label attached to the 'homosexual' variant - a powerful strategy of refusal*
- **Central claim:** language and labelling, categorization, is always an exercise of 'symbolic power'. Those who label and how they label

Always Homosexual? Always Queer?

- Homosexuality is a phenomenon arising in Europe in the 19th century
- Before similar activities existed
- It is only in Europe's 'modernity', that these behaviours became named and begin to become the site of religious/government/social control
- Before we named 'homosexuality' did it exist?

Foucault's Argument

- *The Repressive Hypothesis:* history of sexuality is history of repression (Freud)
 - The idea that certain things are private and certain things are public
 - Are we sexually repressed? If so, how? - *refraining from having sex with who you want, etc.*
- *Foucault's disagreement:* repressive era did not mark a 'silencing' of sex. Instead, the era named by Freud, saw the largest proliferation of sexual knowledge in human history
- Freud and others, created a 'sexual' terrain where science could 'work'. Sexuality, for the first time in human history, was a space to be administered
- Sexuality not as something repressed by power...but instead a 'thing' through which power operates
 - Called biopower
- Normative patterns of human behaviour with a great deal of variety spatially and temporally
- Globalization has meant a focusing of normative patterns around a smaller set of allowable behaviours which regulate desires
- Globalization has meant a response to these sets of behaviour as European and foreign and therefore the site of administration outside of the West by religious/governmental/social institutions
 - Homosexuality is not good for these institutions because there's no reproduction of new babies/followers
 - Always need to create propaganda or public information in favour of children
 - Example: Bill Clinton got caught smoking a cigar in a woman.....and tried to save face by having posters about how he's a good Father of the nation, etc. by having pictures of him standing with children -- idea was you cannot argue against children

Reproductive Futurity

- Is anti-homosexual/anti-queer sentiment outside of the West explainable through colonialism?
- Europeans connected homosexuality with the Orient (the East) - *savage behaviour that middle Eastern people engaged in because they were not civilized like Europeans*

Is the Middle-East intolerant of homosexuality?

- The answer is: *sort of*
- Historically, practices we traditionally term "homosexual" have existed in the middle East since times immemorial, predating both Christianity and Islam, with wide cultural acceptance
- In 19th and 20th century homosexual practices were conceived by Europe as being particular to the Middle-East (something called orientalism)
- However, within European conceptions of sexuality, ambiguity is/was not tolerated
- European way of labelling difference may be inferior...but becoming global

What is the Source of Intolerance in the Middle-East?

- Colonialism and foreign administration of many lands through world brought about strict labelling and patterning of sexual practices particular to homosexuality
- However, prior to European dominance, 'homosexuality' as a set of behaviour was tolerated and practiced widely
- These behaviours did not necessitate a category and existed alongside other sexual practices
- It is only with the advent of the latest 'global' form of sexuality that behaviours begin to be labeled and affixed to a discrete and singular identity

Queering our conception of identity

- Can we speak of homosexuals? When we do, what does it mean?
- **Social Identity Theory:** posits that what brings 'identity' into existence is not the self, but a dynamic interplay of group level factors and cognition (Hogg, MA 2012)
- Our social identities come into being through three related processes
 - 1) Centrality, the cognitive accessibility of identity
 - 2) In-group effect, - self evaluative 'feeling' the identity
 - 3) In-group ties, attachments and sense of belonging to group who possesses the identity

Queer as an identity

- When/where does queer become an identity?
- *Sheldon Stryker's identity theory*
 - Queer as a 'salient identity' (identity saliency)
 - Queer as an identity that begins to structure people's lives
 - Queer as an identity performance
- Queerness only becomes an identity when it is accessible socially, when it creates a community

Theorizing Queer Community

- How can we think about transformative ways in which the queer community came into being?
- Keyholes, with a focus on the 'gay' community
- Conception of self is influenced by something outside of the self
- So when it comes to being queer, are we really born this way?

What is Barebacking

- Subculture is defined by queer community as individuals and groups who engage in "intentional unprotected anal intercourse (Halkitis et al. 2005, 2)."
- Broader sociological phenomena is called barebacking or breeding (ibid.
 - With a sub-group those who fetishize HIV positive semen - termed bugchasers (Balan et al. 2013, 1).

How is barebacking explained?

Typically, the phenomena is explained using psychological or public health models with posit a 'rational' actor, one who enters into negotiated exchanges where they seeks to maximize outcomes

- Condom fatigue
- Internet
- Impaired judgement: crystal meth/alcohol

Toward a different explanation:

- These theories offer a rendition of queer sexuality that is at least partially accurate
- By conceiving of sexuality as essentially rational it brackets out all of these other elements, specifically the unconscious
- Therefore, Dean turns to Freud to help understand why gay men were Barebacking
- Conducted 7 unstructured interviews with MSM barebackers in to (3 vers, 3 bottom, 1 strictly top)

Why

- Hypothesis: barebacking produces terrain of connectedness and togetherness
- Desirable not because one wants to catch the virus but because it becomes a 'conduit' for forming social bonds precisely