

Annual Review
of
Critical Psychology 11, 2014

*Gender
and
Sexuality*

Editorial

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and Surya Nayak

The Annual Review of Critical Psychology 11 with a focus on gender and sexuality is formed by a number of articles on diverse themes and theoretical perspectives. This diversity is seen in relation to the themes, approaches and also from papers from different geographical locations. This broad scope allowed for a plethora of perspectives, also pointing to the importance of intersectional work for critical perspectives, hence, the papers considered key social categories in their analysis, such as gender, sexuality, class, race, age and disability, and many of them accounted for intersections of social categories in their analysis.

Intersectionality within critical research can be a challenge. Here the need to consider power relations in research is central to a critical analysis; on the other hand, this requires a constant reflexivity on the part of the researcher, on their research process and analysis. One shared notion among the critical perspectives this issue is aligned with, is that these social categories are not seen as essentialised or naturalised, but rather are understood as social discursive constructions that have their historical reiterations and formations in diverse ways in different locations. It was clear that in all the papers featured; critical analysis of heterosexual normative constructions prevailed, pointing to the effects of patriarchal, heterosexual and cisgender social constructions and their dynamics and effects, particularly in relation to social exclusions. However, there are specificities on the ways that these dynamics operate locally, and how unbalanced discursive social categories operate in specific places and contexts.

On translation

The authors were invited to publish their papers in two languages, or only in English. This strategy was sought to facilitate the dialogue and dissemination of these debates. This incorporates also the debates on knowledge production and the importance of considering local struggles.

For this process, two interesting aspects emerged, first on the translation itself and on contextualization; and second on the diverse views on local struggles, knowledge and language. Regarding the translation and contextualization, and also for the papers which were in English originally, the authors had to contextualize their papers and local shared understandings; other issues and particularly gender and sexual performances that are taken for granted in their specific locations also had to be further explained for a wider audience. Second, as our reviewers and editors also come from a range of locations and diverse theoretical perspectives, a variety of debates were brought to the fore regarding academic language and theoretical perspectives. The meaning attributed to words, phrases, and experiences depend on the particular social location in which they occur. This is read as a point of reflection on how we can incorporate multiple perspectives into our intersectional critical work. Therefore, this special issue is diverse in the broadest sense of the word, it contains intersections, contradictions, and multiple analysis that support as well as challenge our understandings of gender and sexuality. This is in fact, a crucial debate to put forward, that is, on the ways that sexual politics are shaped locally, on the discourses produced and on theoretical perspectives developed within this.

The issue

This Special Issue shows this diversity of perspectives and local knowledge among the themes brought up. Many articles offer Feminist, Transfeminist and Queer perspectives. Some have drawn on psychoanalytic theories, on critical theories and interdisciplinary approaches. The contributions were from academics, researchers and activists.

Key themes were brought up by a number of papers such as disabilities, trans debates, and their intersections, which are important areas in need of further research and visibility. Others have centred on the theoretical perspectives regarding feminism and their intersections within contemporary debates, such as the very notions of gender and sexuality, psychiatrization, homophobia and transphobia; and other articles have dealt with a range of issues regarding local struggle, fight for recognition, juridical and social acknowledgement.

External Reviewers

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