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**Review of *Queer Excursions: Rethorizing Binaries in Language, Gender and Sexuality*. Lal Zimman, Jenny Davis and Joshua Raclaw (Eds.). Reviewed by Sherri Shimansky**

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policy decisions should be compensated. In Part III of the book, the author examines the way game theory has influenced evolutionary biology, and particularly the concept of the Selfish Gene developed by Richard Dawkins. The book concludes by drawing the material together and offering a brief but heartfelt call for a different approach that celebrates human agency and transcends the narrow confines of rational choice and mathematically computed rational outcomes.

Although this is not a book for beginners, it offers important insights into a dimension of neoliberalism that is seldom recognized or subjected to detailed scholarly scrutiny. The author makes use of a formidable body of literature and demonstrates her equally formidable mastery of the material. Those who make frequent rhetorical references to the evils of neoliberalism should consult this book to better understand the complex ways Western individualism has evolved into an extreme form of atomized rationality in which human behavior is interpreted in terms of mathematical formulas based on games with calculable outcomes. By reading Amadae's fascinating book, they will be better equipped both to understand and respond to the neoliberal challenge.

*James Midgley, University of California, Berkeley*

Lal Zimman, Jenny Davis, and Joshua Raclaw (Eds.), *Queer Excursions: Rethorizing Binaries in Language, Gender and Sexuality*. Oxford University Press (2014), 231 pages, \$23.70 (paperback).

*Queer Excursions* contains chapters summarizing eight different studies looking at language, gender and sexuality. I envisioned a focus on 'queered' binary language, such as the use of gender neutral pronouns and being introduced to more recent studies on 'queer non-binary' gender identities and sexual orientations. But rather than looking at language, gender and sexuality as separate entities, the book's approach was to analyze language use surrounding queer identities.

Some studies were easier to understand than others, but all were interesting. What I found to be most valuable was the inside look at gender and sexuality structures in other

countries. Learning about both gay and lesbian identities in Israel as well as being introduced to the culturally different use and understanding of Indonesian 'tomboi' and 'lesbi' identities provided an enlightening new perspective. Rudolf Gaudio focused on Nigerian Hausa-speaking men with non-normative gender identities and sexual practices. He showcases their creation of an ambiguous, shifting alignment between gender, sexuality and the roles of either acting or being acted on. These cultural studies provided different contrasts in which to think about our own similar American identities.

My own focus is primarily on gender identities and the social construction of binary gender classifications. This book allowed me to see more clearly the blurred lines between my interest and those of feminist thought that is also challenging the social construction of gender in the United States. I appreciate the book's approach, which is not to discard the binary, but to advocate for a more complex and contextually grounded engagement with the binary. As shown in other countries throughout this book, it is not possible nor desirable to deconstruct the existing polar ends of a binary. The goal of these authors is to make more evident what exists between these polar ends and to advocate for ways to make these dichotomies more fluid and inclusive.

As a social worker, I tend to be more passionate about the emotions felt by invisible and vulnerable populations. Beneficial to my own growth, I was able to see how specific language constructs can both oppress and empower these populations. Each study provided a perspective on either one or both sides of this dichotomy.

Lal Zimman addresses conceptualizations of gender through analyzing the language transgender men use to describe their gendered body parts. Orit Bershtling shares findings of a study done on the Hebrew language and how non-binary Israelis engage in empowering linguistic practices to avoid using the strict grammatical gender system. This engagement is very similar to the 'third person' pronoun use by gender non-conformists in the United States. Jenny Davis provides a refreshing chapter addressing the western colonialists' incorrect use of the terms 'gay Indian' and 'Two-Spirit'.

The exposure to constructed binary structures presented in different forms and in very different communities

was both engaging and overwhelming for one entering the academic world from a practice background. There was an evident theme throughout the book to encourage more research on communities that are not easily categorized into usual dichotomies. I gladly accept this invitation in my own work, focusing on non-binary life in experiences in the United States, not with a linguistic frame, but from a social work perspective.

*Sherri Shimansky, Arizona State University*

P. Tony Jackson, *Black Male Violence In Perspective: Toward Afrocentric Intervention*. Lexington Books (2015), 171 pages, \$80.00 (hardcover).

An accomplished clinical psychologist and professor at Skyline College, P. Tony Jackson provides readers with an understanding of the causal mechanism of black male violence and presents research findings that provide evidence for the promise of using Afrocentric models to address the issue of violence among young black men. Jackson describes the historical context of violence within the black community among largely black young men, and how American society historically has nurtured the violence both suffered and committed by black men, while at the same time openly condemning the very violence it has created.

The first chapter is an overview of the problem of black violence and the painful statistics that inform our understanding of the problem. Jackson begins with a description of how within the United States, the impact of violence within communities disproportionately impacts young black males who are both perpetrators and victims of violent crimes. The situation of black male incarceration rates has worsened with time, as U.S. funding priorities continue to focus on constructing prisons rather than funding intervention through social and mental health services.

In the following two chapters, Jackson addresses the historical roots of violence among African American youth, its link to a history of racism, and the role of media in perpetuating violence among African-American males. Violence among young black men, Jackson suggests, is a historical symptom of