

## ***Critical Intersex***

Edited by Morgan Holmes  
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*Critical Intersex* provides much needed academic attention and debate to a historically neglected area. The editor, Morgan Holmes – an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada – has brought together contributions from a group of well renowned international scholars, including the humanities, health and law. This interdisciplinary attention provides an engaging critique on the central aspects of this often ignored area of human sexual variance; which is undertaken in a genuinely supportive and constructive manner. The collection of nine essays provides the forum to achieve the stated goal of questioning not only the direction of current medical research and practice, but also to critique the dominant paradigms of the historical, activist, and theoretical work on human intersexuality.

This text divides the content into three well positioned sections: Part 1 – Medical Practices/Colonial Practices; Part 2 – Challenges to Identity Claims; and Part 3 – Refiguring the Human. In doing so the reader is orientated to the argument and discussions, and is also exposed to views regarding the future of intersex.

The move to adopt the new term of Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) is challenged, and the question is posed, are we 'done with the term intersex'? The scholarly chapters which focus on 'reclaiming' or challenging the move away from the current language work well to support this aim. *Critical*

*Intersex* successfully challenges the notion that there is but one choice of true sex, the male/female binary. Holmes's focus on challenging the pathologising and medicalisation of the experiences and language used to describe people who fit outside the dichotomous representations of sex provides support for the aims of the book.

*Critical Intersex* rejoices in the 'inter' and the disruption of the male/female binary. At times the use of jargon and academic script inhibits the accessibility of the debate, potentially causing some confusion for the reader, and may even limit the readership. Not being absolutely conversant with some of the theoretical underpinnings may leave some readers feeling adrift; although those well versed in sociology and associated theories will no doubt relish the discussions. Despite this, *Critical Intersex* successfully asserts itself as a 'go to' resource for scholars, researchers, and students alike in the pursuit of their understanding regarding the debates surrounding intersex, past, present, and future.

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