

policies even though they might not be fully implemented or respected by shelter residents or staff.

Interestingly, and not surprisingly, the various essays often contradict one another in their positioning and understanding of both feminism and gender. Some contributors discuss their gender identities (regardless as to how they identify) as though they are innate or essential truths about themselves where others clearly argue that debates about biological determinism are more harmful than helpful to trans communities and activism. The nuances in the arguments and variations in the personal politics of the contributors are educational and thought provoking. While these differences make for an intriguing read, two chapters in particular stand out. I am left bewildered as to why the editor would include A. Nicki's reactionary piece which she concludes by arguing, "To include transsexual and transgendered people in women's spaces would, in fact, undermine a feminist commitment to human liberation...."

Similarly, I wonder what is the purpose of Joanna Harris' essay written in support of Rape Relief's decision to exclude Nixon from volunteering. These essays are particularly problematic for a text that claims to support solidarity building between trans and feminist communities. There are plenty of other anthologies in which Nicki and Harris can publish.

In spite of the gaudy front cover design and the extremely odd inclusion of some transphobic content, *Transforming Feminisms* is an important text for those interested in critiquing the limitations of gender-normative theories. This impressive anthology will make an excellent addition to introductory women's studies courses as well as more advanced studies of gender and sexuality.

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CHALLENGING LESBIAN NORMS: INTERSEX, TRANSGENDER, INTERSECTIONAL, AND QUEER PERSPECTIVES

Angela Pattucci Aragón, Ed.
Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press, 2006

REVIEWED BY ALISA GRIGOROVICH

As Aragón writes in the introduction to this collection, the relationships between lesbian, queer, and transgender subjects and communities are often fraught with tension and disagreement. In some cases, there is outright hostility and exclusion of transgender and intersex subjects from lesbian spaces and communities. As Aragón notes, much of this tension arises from the 'homonormativity' that is based on an essential view of gender and sexuality that exists in many lesbian and LGBT communities. In particular, many LGBT communities and organizations pay little attention to the experiences and perspectives of intersex, transgender, and queer people from diverse backgrounds and abilities. Using her own experience of 'coming-out' as intersex and the negative reactions that it has generated, Aragón argues for the need for lesbian communities and their members to critically examine their practices of exclusion and their

politics. This timely collection of essays offers an example of the ways in which intersex, transgender, intersectional, and queer subjects, theories and experiences can be used to engage with and confront exclusionary practices within lesbian communities and expand the meanings of lesbian identity and sexuality.

Published simultaneously as an edited collection and as an issue of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, this text is primarily aimed at professionals working with LGBT communities, activists, post-secondary professors and students and other academics. The essays are written in a clear and engaging manner by professionals from multidisciplinary backgrounds and fields ranging from cultural studies to mental health. While many of the essays use personal experiences to illustrate their main points, the collection is well balanced in terms of methodological approaches and theories offering discussion based on both sociological research studies and literary and cultural criticism. Topics include marginalization within lesbian communities, the relationships between transsexual/transgender theories and lesbian theories, practices of teaching transgender, queer and intersex perspectives in Women's Studies as well as explorations of lesbian narratives and films.

While the essays are written as separate pieces, they are anchored together in that they all tackle the issue of the consequences of lesbian homonormativity and the ways in which lesbian theories, communities, and norms can be using transgender, transsexual, intersex, queer, and intersectional perspectives and theories. Most of the essays in this collection also end with a brief section of issues and questions that could be used to further discuss and expand the themes and concepts raised in the article. Some of the essays that stand out from this collection include Coogan's analysis of the relationships between transsexual and lesbian subjects and Detlof's exploration of the investment that lesbian com-

munities have in butch, FTM, and transgender subjects' narratives of pain and suffering. Both of these essays offer excellent examples for the potential of transgender, queer, and intersex people, theories, and perspectives to critically examine the homonormativity and exclusionary politics of traditional lesbian narratives, activisms, and politics.

One of the drawbacks of this collection is that most of the articles assume a common understanding of the meanings of terms such as 'butch', 'transgender' and 'transsexual' without offering an explanation of how the authors understand these terms. This is unfortunate as these terms have very contested meanings and applications that are important to consider. Another major drawback of this collection is the lack of an overarching conclusion that sums up the perspectives and aims of this collection. This is particularly necessary given the wide-ranging perspectives and backgrounds that are included in this collection. Further, a notable weakness of this collection is its reliance on only US based research and communities, and its engagement with only a few gender and sexuality theorists such as Butler, Bornstein, and Halberstam. Additionally, while one of the purposes of this collection was to provide an intersectional analysis, its intersectionality is limited to a few articles that discuss the perspectives and experiences of a few people of colour in the US. Most of the articles make little attempt to incorporate an intersectional approach and consider the perspectives and experiences of diverse backgrounds and abilities in their analysis.

Despite these criticisms, overall the text is an important and thought-provoking addition to discussions of gender and sexuality and LGBT communities and activisms. This collection speaks to the growing dissatisfaction within lesbian and other LGBT communities with respect to gender and sexual categorizations and offers a critical challenge to

homonormative identity politics. It is thus a useful and critical resource for anyone working with LGBT people and anyone teaching in the fields of LGBT, sexuality, and gender and women's studies.

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THE FUTURE OF GENDER

Jude Browne, Ed.
New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007

REVIEWED BY KRISTINE KLEMENT

The Future of Gender is an engaging collection of essays that address pressing questions for gender studies today. Authors ask how can we, as researchers and feminists, achieve gender justice and how can these achievements be measured? What factors contribute to gender differences and gender inequality? And what is the future of gender as an analytical as well as an ontological category?

This collection focuses on current thinking on gender inequality and gender justice in both the public and private spheres. It includes perspectives from a diversity of disciplines including sociology, political science, evolutionary psychology, psychoanalysis, and philosophy with an emphasis on the social sciences. The strength of this collection is the provocative interplay between the authors' perspectives that do not always agree but that challenge one another in potentially productive ways.

Nancy Fraser opens the collection by arguing that gender justice today requires that feminism integrate its interests in a state-administered redistribution of resources and an identity politics of recognition with a transnational politics of representation. Nevertheless, a transnational perspective is missing from the rest of the collection. Ingrid Robeyns offers a methodological tool for measuring the degree of gender justice within a society, based on Amartya Sen's "capability approach," which measures the opportunities or capabilities of a person to be and do who and what they want. Using this measure she notes that there is no society in the world that has reached gender equality. Valerie Bryson advocates a return to the radical feminist critique of patriarchy which would enable an analysis of the continued efficacy of gender stereotypes and hierarchies as well as the unequal distribution of domestic labour. She argues that all of these effects of patriarchy impact women's abilities to compete in a public sphere that remains androcentric.

Bryson's critique of patriarchal values is called to mind with respect to the two scientific approaches represented in articles by Simon Baron-Cohen and Susan Hurley. Baron-Cohen argues that there are biological differences between the brains of men and women and these differences can be classified along two measures: empathizing (female-type) and systematizing (male-type). He argues that in spite of the wide range of crossover there may be biological justifications for not enforcing gender-equal representation in all jobs. Susan Hurley addresses the critical scepticism through which feminism sees evolutionary psychology. She argues that evolutionary psychology can contribute to the feminist goal of gender justice by challenging monogamy and reconsidering the roles of nature as well as culture in the sexual and social contracts.

Essays by Terrell Carver, Juliet Mitchell, and Tony Lawson speak to the future of the gendered subject.