

## Sexual *Life*

- sexuality is alive
- 'life' itself is lifeless, inanimate or 'dead'

- The self-surrender to indifference... is the slumbering consciousness of contemporary life...The emptiness of the future [death] no longer stimulates a nameless dread... it will bring... nothing different (Ferguson, 205)

- (a) how to conceptualise and study of sexual *life* to address more adequately *life*;
- (b) how to avoid those kinds of sociological reductions that justifiably prompt the exclamation “life, but not as we know it”.

## Henning Bech

### *When Men Meet: Homosexuality and Modernity*

- 'the modern phenomenon of homosexuality as it exists...the already existing homosexuality, not its coming into existence'.
- 'identify a specific configuration, conglomeration or formation'.
- 'a matter of *sticking to the phenomenon*'.
- 'it moves within the realm of lived life and experience...the life-world'
- 'The phenomenological analysis used ...enters into lived experience to unfold it'.

As a form of existence the modern homosexual comprises a number of particular characteristics... *moods and recognitions...ways of experiencing...forms of behaviour and expression...social world...life spaces* (1992: 138-9)

- ‘increasingly the only difference left is preference, and this is no worse than other minor differences. An indifference surface which may perhaps even turn into equal value and universal possibility’ (1997: 198)

- mostly external forces-conditions that produce ‘the phenomenon’
- undermines the multiplicity of differences that give modern sexual *life* its vitality
- underplays contingent transformations that are consequence of vitality

## radical relationality and ontology of morphogenesis (Fraser et al)

Moods and recognitions, experience, dreams and belongings, behaviours and expressions, social worlds and life spaces

- not simply products – but also *actants* (c.f. Latour)
- Interproductivities
- *Process* thinking and an ontology of becoming (Fraser et al)

## *Multiplicity* of differences

- Moods and recognitions, experiences, dreams and belongings, behaviours and expressions, social worlds and life spaces are radically changeable and diverse
- Key to thinking accounts of both past and present sexual lives – it is not about radical 'social change' – but about how its influences come to bear on present actualities and future possibilities

- iii) *Diverse*, contingent and transforming interproductions

Vitality – rooted in diversity, relationality and morphogenesis - of sexual *life* means that that it is contingent and 'unpredictable' - against teleological inevitabilities, currently and in the future

Following 'becomings'