Reviews of Recently-Published Academic Books in LGBTQ Studies

March 2019 Reviews

1. Queer adolescent literature as a complement to the English language arts curriculum. ed. by Paula Greathouse, Brooke Eisenbach, and Joan F. Kaywell. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 241p bibl index, 9781475842388 $70.00, 9781475842395 $35.00, 9781475842401 $30.00

The least controversial way for schools to show support for LGBTQ students is to subsume everything under the umbrella of an all-inclusive anti-bullying policy. But is that enough? The editors of this book (all professors of secondary education) would undoubtedly argue that it is not. The collection they have curated is rich with examples of queer-themed YA literature that can be used within the context of a middle school or high school English language arts (ELA) classroom, strengthened by specific pedagogical approaches that clearly address requisite language arts and literacy standards. A real strength of the book is its organization. The first essays provide historical perspective, and the rest offer specific examples. This reviewer particularly applauds the inclusion of essays focused on the middle school curriculum, which is often neglected. No book can cover everything, of course, but it would have been helpful to hear more from teachers working in the classroom, and an essay dealing with book selection and potential censorship issues would also have been welcome. Still and all, this is a valuable resource for teachers, librarians, and educational leaders seeking to create more-inclusive ELA classrooms.

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates; graduate students; professionals.


This excellent study serves three purposes: it surveys the core methodologies used in existing queer theologies (and queer theory); it provides a deep engagement with the theology of the late Marcella Althaus-Reid (1952–2009); and it highlights examples of theology that come closer to being queer than most explicitly queer theological work. For the purposes of this work, Tonstad (systematic theology, Yale Divinity School) considers queer theology to include LGBT theologies of the last 50 years. Tontad’s premise is that most queer theology is focused more on queer people than on being a Christian theology that takes queer theory seriously. Tonstad takes issue with the apologetic approach of most LGBTQIA+ theology, which often begins with questioning the place of queer people within Christianity. Through analyzing Althaus-Reid and summarizing key works of queer theory, Tonstad reveals ways in which existing queer theology should be questioned. Tonstad challenges the reader in a way that will be accessible to nonspecialists but also offers compelling arguments that serious scholars will appreciate.

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.


Gender and sexuality have been central to Asian American identity politics since the early 1970s. Wu (gender studies, Indiana Univ.) employs the trope of “sticky rice”—which in gay Asian American culture means Asian American men who desire other Asian American men—to explore this intraracial desire, and she also uses the underlying critical vision to underscore a new coalitional politics for the ethnic group. Wu emphasizes such a desire as intervention in assimilationist tendencies and healing differences among diverse Asian groups. She historicizes such relationships against the background of Chinese exclusion and US militarism in Asia. She argues that Asia has been (re)divided into friendly and enemy
forces, and that Asian American men have been strategically queer in such changing contexts. In that sense, Wu moves beyond intraracial desire to point out the epistemological and ontological implications of the homosocial, homoerotic, and homosexual connections among Asian American men. Investigating the desire and the relationship both literally and metaphorically in canonical and non-canonical texts, Wu concludes that such coalitional politics will have an impact on the theory and practice of Asian American studies, queer studies, and critical race studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

4. Circulating queerness: before the gay and lesbian novel. Hurley, Natasha. Minnesota, 2018. 320p index, 9781517900342 $108.00, 9781517900359 $27.00, 9781452957005 Hurley (Univ. of Alberta) attempts to trace the evolution of the queer novel on fronts both gay and lesbian, and she looks at the origin of the form itself, starting with the novels that developed a reputation for meaning queerness and continuing to books overtly about the topic. Hurley looks at how characters were coded queer based on the novels on their shelves, novels that had nothing in common but their queerness; how queer theory placed interpretations and meanings on texts and turns of phrase that may or may not have been intended at the time of writing; and how queer characters who were minor became a more prominent focal point, eventually moving to the foreground. Of particular note is the tracing of lesbian novels independently from gay novels rather than grouping lesbian and gay novels together. This book claims to be the most in-depth and up-to-date attempt to tackle this topic and to be broader in scope than earlier works on the topic. However, the language is dense and difficult to parse, which is unfortunate because the topic is fascinating, and the scope is indeed broad. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

February 2019 Reviews

1. Queer people of color: connected but not comfortable. by Angelique Harris, Juan Battle, and Antonio (Jay) Pastrana Jr. First Forum Press, 2018. 145p bibl index, 9781626377158 $75.00, 9781626377837 $75.00
The 2010 Social Justice Sexuality Project (SJS) surveyed more than 5,000 queer black, Latinx, and Asian Pacific Islander Americans, collecting data on social and demographic characteristics. This volume reports survey findings (sorted by gender and ethnicity) related to sociopolitical (civic, political, social) involvement: i.e., the degree to which respondents participate in majority (public) organizations and events, in queer organizations and events, and in ethnic organizations and events. Chapters offer pertinent literature reviews and report survey results, including differences and similarities among the three ethnic groups and between women and men. Respondents indicated that both sexual orientation and ethnic status are significant components of their personal identity, with more citing sexual orientation and ethnic status as significant components of their personal identity, with more citing sexual orientation. In general, respondent claims of connection to queer communities, and to some extent their degree of “outness” with family and friends, more than factors of age, income, or education, correlated with higher sociopolitical involvement, which perhaps is self-evident. Level of comfort within ethnic and queer communities variously correlated with sociopolitical involvement. The authors thus advocate cultivating greater opportunities to connect with queer communities to promote minority sociopolitical involvement. The SJS data set has been shared and is available online (http://socialjusticesexuality.com/) for supplementary analysis. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty, professionals.
2. Understanding trans health: discourse, power and possibility. Pearce, Ruth. Policy Press, 2018. 255p bibl index, 9781447342335 $105.00, 9781447342359 $45.95, 9781447342342

Pearce (Univ. of Leeds, UK) has written what she terms an "autoethnography," in which she draws on her personal experience as a transgender person who has transitioned from male to female to understand trans health and trans health services in the UK. The author takes a critical look at trans healthcare services and providers in the UK, which she claims are often problematic due to many factors, including a lack of understanding of what it means to be transgender in addition to prejudice and a general reluctance to embrace change on the part of some providers. The chapter on historical approaches to gender diversity in Western societies is thorough and informative, as is the chapter on the diagnostic criteria that must be met in order for an individual to access trans services from the UK's National Health Service (NHS). The section on temporality, or how "social patterning of experiences and understandings of time" affect the trans community, is less effective. Professionals in the various fields of human sexuality would be the most likely to benefit from this book. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, and professionals.

3. Queer nuns: religion, activism, and serious parody. Wilcox, Melissa M. New York University, 2018. 288p bibl index, 9781479864133 $89.00, 9781479820368 $30.00, 9781479871339

Wilcox (religious studies, Univ. of California, Riverside) has a sterling record of scholarship on queer theory in religion. Here she offers a history and critical assessment of the work of LGBTQ activists who consider themselves nuns: a contemporary community of self-styled nuns who are largely cisgender white men. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SPI) began in California in 1976 and now has centers in cities around the world. Combining camp, cheerfulness, and anger, SPI performs what it calls serious parody, donning dress associated with Roman Catholic nuns and working on behalf of marginalized communities. Wilcox did almost five years of research with SPI and in archives of GLBTQ history. Readers benefit from not only the author’s extensive field work but also her commitment to critical theory and ability to see power dynamics: e.g., she points out that though SPI advocates for transgender rights, transgender people struggle to find space within SPI and that many SPI "sisters" are affluent and privileged compared to the queer people of color with whom they interact. SPI's subversive parodies of Vatican power politics reveal injustices LGBTQ communities suffer at the hands of dominant religious groups, but the men can only do so much to overcome structural power dynamics within a complicated landscape of gender politics. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

4. Coming out of communism: the emergence of LGBT activism in Eastern Europe. O’Dwyer, Conor. New York University, 2018. 333p bibl index, 9781479876631 $99.00, 9781479851485 $35.00, 9781479877829

O’Dwyer (Univ. of Florida) explores LGBT activism in post-communist Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia between 1989 and 2012. He argues that “when LGBT movements face threatening opposition, it allows them to solve several collective action problems at once, and with minimal resources.” O’Dwyer substantiates this argument through multiple means, including “histories of LGBT activism, fieldwork conducted between 2007 and 2011, and content analysis of two national newspapers.” This book’s bold exploration adds to a growing conversation about LGBT politics “on the periphery.” The text is thick owing to the author’s research design and rigorous questions. While making a valuable contribution to LGBT studies, this book is geared not toward the novice, but toward a seasoned reader fluent in research design in the social sciences. Readers will learn a great deal about
activist groups in those countries, and will understand the role “Europeanization” had on the LGBT movement after the fall of communism. However, this book will best serve graduate students, faculty, and practitioners in politics. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

January 2019 Reviews

Well-published scholar of sociology and gender Sally Hines (Univ. of Leeds) offers a unique introductory text to the field of gender studies and some of its central concerns. While contemporary theory might simply answer the title's question with a succinct and resounding “yes,” the scrapbook or zine-inspired layout invites readers to explore the question through a spectrum of disciplinary approaches. The text is presented as a primer: with many eye-catching images, differing font sizes highlighting key concepts, and coverage of current media events, it is well crafted to appeal to audiences new to addressing questions of gender diversity and fluidity. While not offering a novel theoretical or empirical contribution, the text presents an overview of the way in which political theory, feminist theory, psychology, science, arts, and media have contributed to contemporary understandings of gender around the world, from ancient Greece to contemporary China. By moving across history and geography, Hines reinforces the concept that gender is always contextual. Is Gender Fluid? would be a useful conversation starter in the introductory gender studies classroom, not only for the content but in the ease of pulling out key concepts, as supported by alternating fonts and broken-up blocks of text. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and general readers.

2. Transgender health issues. Boslaugh, Sarah. Greenwood, 2018. 203p bibl index, 9781440858871 $40.00, 9781440858888 $40.00
This is the latest volume in the "Health and Medical Issues Today" series covering timely topics in health care. The intended audience for this series is the general reader seeking a basic overview of issues related to transgender health; Boslaugh, who has over 20 years of experience in medical and public health statistical analysis, provides a decent introduction for a lay audience. The book begins with an overview of terminology and statistics, a brief history of the community, an overview of the process of transitioning gender, and related physical and mental health issues. The second section discusses transgender discrimination, access to psychological and medical health services, and the controversy over access to public bathrooms. The third section is devoted to case studies of people of all ages and at different places on the transgender spectrum. There is a glossary of terms and a historical time line covering 1629–2018. While there are no footnotes, there is a compilation of further resources that lists books, articles, websites, and downloadable pamphlets. The lack of footnotes limits this text's utility for students or healthcare providers, but the writing is suitable for a general audience. Summing Up: Recommended. General readers.

Readers of this ethnography are never told how many individuals fall into the demographic studied; all are residents of Cape Town, “Africa’s Gay capital,” who have become Pentecostals and also want to adopt an appropriate lifestyle, ideally married to a woman and raising children. There cannot be many, but numbers are not important here; neither are the success or failure rates of this participant-held
redemption process. In this truly unique and fascinating study of contemporary African social issues, independent scholar Hackman is attracted to the techniques and strategies employed, and how the men involved define success. As she delves into these matters and we meet the men possessed of this dilemma via Hackman’s sympathetic psychological portraits, her seemingly narrow focus yields broader truths about the entire African continent. For example, South Africa is the only country on that continent where homosexuality has not been criminalized. The position of the other African countries is more akin to Uganda’s, which has declared the death penalty appropriate for men convicted of living a gay lifestyle. As such, it would be unfortunate if this book gathers only a limited audience for its focus on male sexuality. It sheds new light on Africa In general. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, and professionals.

December 2018 Reviews

1. Familiar perversions : the racial, sexual, and economic politics of LGBT families. Montegary, Liz. Rutgers, 2018. 262p bibl index, 9780813591360 $99.95, 9780813591353 $26.95, 9780813591377 $26.95 Montegary (Stony Brook) examines the politics of LGBTQ families in the US through the themes of anxiety, visibility, equality, and vitality, as she simultaneously compiles a history of these families. This book challenges several myths in the public imagination about the LGBTQ community, such as the myth of affluence. The conclusions solidify her project. “My hope has been to sharpen our understanding of the familial methods of social control currently at work and, in doing so, to lay the analytic groundwork needed for building broader and more just grassroots movements…. I approached the rise and recent success of family equality advocacy as conditioned by and constitutive of the neoliberal reconfiguration of U.S. racial and sexual politics.” Montegary explores the intersections of LGBTQ families and tourism, the financial services industry, and the court battles on which mainstream LGBTQ organizations staked their movement. Deeply researched, Montegary's contextualization of terms like “homonormativity,” “homonationalism,” and “chosen families,” which underpin discussions of LGBTQ politics and family life, will be essential guideposts for readers. This is an indispensable text for all libraries. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

2. The trans generation : how trans kids (and their parents) are creating a gender revolution. Travers, Ann. New York University, 2018. 263p bibl index, 9781479885794 $25.00, 9781479879939 Whether due to a general lack of understanding or consistent misinterpretations of definitions, gender and identity can be challenging topics for many individuals. Travers (Simon Fraser Univ.) helps combat this confusion by exploring aspects of gender and identity research that are often perplexing for students. Travers presents an innovative exploration of the experiences of transgender children, offering concrete definitions of terminology and fresh approaches to discussing gender, sex, and identity. To some, these definitions and explanations might seem inconsequential, but they can be invaluable to those less informed about gender research. The text goes beyond simply discussing issues related to gender and children by listing resources for children, parents, lawmakers, and educators as well as providing policy recommendations for healthcare and education professionals. The book contains a complete list of references and notes for further details on claims and statements made throughout the text. Also included are a glossary, comprehensive index, and multiple appendixes that provide excellent source material for research on gender. This illuminating text will be an appreciated addition to any library collection, especially those supporting sociology, psychology, gender studies, or criminology and criminal justice programs. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.
3. Trans kids: being gendered in the twenty-first century. Meadow, Tey. California, 2018. 300p bibl index, 9780520275034 $85.00, 9780520275041 $29.95, 9780520964167 $29.95
Meadows (sociology, Harvard Univ.) offers a terrific, timely book about children, parents, and their ties to, and struggles with, the concept of gender. Informed by ethnography, ethnomethodology, interviews, and participant observation, Meadows portrays gender as an interactional achievement and as an identity rooted in relationships as well as one constituted by paradox as it necessitates constant negotiation while being perceived as an “enduring feature” of self (p. 52). Specifically, Meadows shows how the bodies of trans and gender nonconforming youth serve as sites of contestation; the ways these youth manage appearance, stigma, disclosure, and the persistent scrutiny of others; and how these youth live with limited agency, unable to offer consent in formative contexts (e.g., familial, educational, medical). Meadows tells the stories of parents too: trying to determine whether a child’s gendered transgression is an “isolated incident” or something more; dealing with hostile responses from their communities; serving, often unwittingly, as transgender advocates and activists; and fearing mistakes with accommodating a child’s needs and desires. Meadows is a superb scholar and storyteller and, with this work, makes a critical contribution to family and gender studies. Everyone should read this book. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

In a volume that crosses and reconfigures borders and boundaries, Gill (UT Austin) uses field methods, personal reflections, and interludes to delve into historical consciousness and erotic desire in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Gill expands Audre Lorde’s conception of the erotic as guiding methodology through which to explore the genealogy of political, sensual, and spiritual practices. The analysis brings together calypso musicians, carnival masquerade design, and HIV/AIDS organizations dedicated to prevention and care, with the aim of documenting an eminently local and specific "grassroots lesbian and gay artistry and activism." The concern here is not with exclusion or marginalization but instead with the ways that "same-sex-desiring people" have made and continue to make "space for themselves in the public domain through artistic expression and community-building techniques." Through personal interludes and excerpts from field diaries, Gill pushes against the boundaries of traditional ethnography while centering on the importance of participant observation, requiring a vital "presence on the field" and "on the page, in the text." Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

5. The politics of love: queer heterosexuality in nineteenth-century French literature. Foerster, Maxime. New Hampshire, 2018. 243p bibl index, 9781512601695 $95.00, 9781512601701 $45.00, 9781512601718 $44.99
Surveying the landscape of mid- to late-19th-century French literature, Foerster (Southern Methodist Univ.) observes that for many Romantic and Decadent writers, “heterosexuality did not seem to work.” Indeed, many writers during this period—from Staël, Sand, Constant, and Musset to Gautier, Baudelaire, Lorrain, and Rachilde—took an antagonistic stance toward normalized sexual relationships or conventional expressions of straight erotic love. This creative antagonism, what Foerster labels “heterosexual trouble,” eventually metamorphoses into such a pronounced phenomenon that it subverts “the ability of language to name, structure, and preserve the gender and sexual rules that constitute heteronormativity.” Divided into two parts, this volume addresses the generative force of

November 2018 Reviews

Policing is a well-studied area of interest for social scientists. However, there remain important aspects of the occupational experiences of police officers that deserve investigation. The experiences of those policing, for example, are studied relatively rarely, as most criminological research focuses on officers' experiences with the public. Retired police officer Panter (Liverpool John Moores Univ., UK) breaks from that trend and presents the first investigation into the experiences of transgender police. Panter examines the attitudes of cisgender police officers towards transgender officers, the experiences of police officers who identify as transgender, and the broader consequences of these attitudes and experiences. This first-of-its-kind research combines empirical, qualitative evidence with incisive theory and policy implications; the author presents valuable directions for future research. Each chapter contains a complete list of references and notes for further details on claims and statements made throughout the text. The book also contains a comprehensive index that provides excellent source material for research on policing and gender. This illuminating text will be an appreciated addition to any library collection, especially those supporting sociology, psychology, gender studies, or criminology and criminal justice programs. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

2. The path to gay rights: how activism and coming out changed public opinion. Garretson, Jeremiah J. New York University, 2018. 297p index, 9781479822133 $99.00, 9781479850075 $35.00, 9781479824236
It has become a commonplace that one of the biggest social changes in the past 50 years has been the shift in attitude toward LGBT people and their rights. The questions that interest social scientists are how and why? Garretson (California State East Bay) has questions and explanations. Using social surveys to document the shift, he argues that the most important factor is the “tireless work of LGBT activists especially during the AIDS crisis.” As much as anything else, the crisis led to large exposure further leading to mass coming out. Garretson makes a significant contribution in his theory of affective liberalization, which is, in effect, a theory of how exposure in coming out changes support for LGBT rights. The theory, he argues in his conclusion, can be applied to other aspects of social change, perhaps with limited results. That remains to be seen. Quantitative data backs up the arguments of this serious social science book. It makes a significant contribution to the political science literature on LGBT studies by synthesizing and advancing the empirical arguments on the shift in opinion on gay rights in just a few generations. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.
3. Has the gay movement failed? Duberman, Martin B. California, 2018. 247p index, 9780520298866 $27.95, 9780520970847 $27.95

A historian of the American Left and an early proponent of academic LGBTQ studies, Duberman (emer., CUNY) is well equipped to tackle this retrospective critique of the gay liberation movement that grew out of the New York City Stonewall riots in 1969. Although this book lacks an explicit time line, it opens with historical insight on two organizational cornerstones of the LGBTQ movement in the US: the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance. Comparisons are made with subsequent social policy, civil rights, and activist groups that played a role in LGBTQ movements in the 20th century. The author’s personal experience and opinions on social acceptance, social justice, and activism are interwoven throughout the text as discussions of how those types of groups could become more effective by switching from one-track themes of discrimination in military service and marriage to broader concerns and tactics addressing socioeconomic inequalities that clearly oppress LGBTQ people. Duberman points to historical struggles with workers, racism, and sexism to show that social and political concerns for activism can achieve better success if those groups collaborate instead of going solo. Summing Up: Recommended. Academic and public libraries.

4. From tolerance to equality: how elites brought America to same-sex marriage. Paul, Darel E. Baylor, 2018. 244p bibl index, 9781481306942 $39.95, 9781481306966 $39.95

Paul (Williams College) provides astute, data-driven explanations for how the US “elite”—college-educated, “rich and powerful” persons who excel with economic, social, and cultural capital—contributed significantly to the support for, and normalization of, homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Paul focuses on the activist practices of medical health organizations (e.g., American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers), legal professionals, and corporate “managerial elites.” Key observations include the cultural shift from merely “tolerating” same-sex attraction to desiring full “equality” for lesbian and gay people, reasons members of the middle and working classes may hold more negative views of homosexuality compared to those working in respected professional and managerial positions (e.g., CEOs, lawyers, professors), and how diversity is desired and celebrated in these positions but not in less-respected positions (e.g., kitchen staff, custodians, secretaries). Although this reviewer takes pause with some of the language used in the book, as well as with Paul’s concluding comparison between lesbian and gay movements and movements tied to gender identity, this book will be of significant importance to anyone interested in sexuality, social class, and cultural change. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.

5. Turning the page: storytelling as activism in queer film and media. Coon, David R. Rutgers, 2018. 230p bibl index, 9780813593708 $99.95, 9780813593692 $26.95, 9780813593715 $26.95

Coon (Univ. of Washington Tacoma) examines ways in which LGBTQ organizations working outside the mainstream Hollywood film and television industry can help individuals tell their stories for wider dissemination. The text focuses on three significant organizations—the now-defunct In The Life Media, which produced LGBTQ documentaries for public television for two decades; POWER UP, which mentors filmmakers toward moving individual stories into longer films; and Three Dollar Bill Cinema, which helps organize local LGBTQ film festivals and filmmaking camps for aspiring young filmmakers. Although the discussion is limited primarily to the history of these three organizations, Coon cites a number of additional critics and scholars who expand on the importance of storytelling, particularly for the LGBTQ community. However, given Coon’s limited scope, libraries without comprehensive media studies or
LGBTQ collections might find his work interesting but too narrow for their holdings. Given that caveat, Coon is still a fine companion to Between the Sheets, In the Streets: Queer, Lesbian, Gay Documentary (Minnesota, 1997). Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

6. Representing the rainbow in young adult literature: LGBTQ+ content since 1969. by Christine A. Jenkins and Michael Cart. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 293p index, 9781442278066 $45.00, 9781442278073 $42.50
With this expanded, updated version of The Heart Has Its Reasons (CH, Sep'06, 44-0157), Jenkins (Univ. of Illinois) and Cart (reviewer and editor) present a thorough overview of fiction and nonfiction for and about LGBTQ+ young people, focusing on work in English mostly set in North America. In part 1, the authors provide a chronological survey of the fiction in six chapters, from gay-themed adult novels of the 1940s through YA fiction as recent as 2016. Each chapter sorts the literature reviewed into three broad categories: “Homosexual Visibility,” or stories about coming out; “Gay Assimilation,” stories that include LGBTQ+ characters whose orientation is not the focus of the plot; and “Queer Consciousness/Community.” Part 2 covers bisexual, transgender, and intersex inclusion; graphic novels; and nonfiction. Jenkins and Cart are, respectively, a lesbian and a gay man, and they are also engaging writers and discerning readers. Their enthusiasm for the literature is contagious. This book will make an excellent companion to Caren Town’s LGBTQ Young Adult Fiction: A Critical Survey, 1970s–2010s (CH, Dec'17, 55-1280). Town’s study delves more deeply into queer and literary theory, but the present volume describes and analyzes a longer list of books. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

Haggerty (Univ. of California, Riverside) examines male friendship bonds within English literature, focusing on three distinct categories: the elegiac, the erotic, and the platonic. The author makes substantive inquiry into the fluidity of male-male relations as depicted in such canonical novels as Tristram Shandy, Jacob’s Room, and Great Expectations, bringing to the fore the nature and worth of male friendship, its tether to shifting socioeconomic concerns throughout English history, its commentary on male sexuality, and its influence on readers’ interpretation of said texts. Haggerty asserts the transcendent nature of male intimacy, particularly as it manifests in platonic bonds in which older males counsel and mentor younger males. Such relations were inspired by an education rooted in the classics. Of particular interest are Haggerty’s investigation into Oscar Wilde’s The Picture of Dorian Gray and an epilogue devoted to Christopher Isherwood’s A Single Man. Somewhat esoteric, the text relies heavily on primary source material to buttress its claims, which are nearly eclipsed by its inclusion of lengthy excerpts from the various texts it critiques. Yet this will not impede literary scholars from benefiting from Haggerty’s rich discourse. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

October 2018 Reviews

1. LGBTQ social movements. Stulberg, Lisa M. Polity, 2018. 228p bibl index, 9780745656076 $64.95, 9780745656083 $22.95, 9781509527403 $22.95
This impressive book will be an invaluable resource for anyone looking for a concise, efficient, all-inclusive look at LGBTQ social movements and their history. Stulberg (sociology of education, NYU)
weaves together social movement theory and history to impress on readers the complexity of the movement and the many forms that have characterized it over the last 70 years. The book is organized chronologically and around themes such as assimilationism/liberationism, use of art and popular culture, and interconnectedness of movements. The author points out that LGBTQ social activism, like other great movements of the mid- to late-20th century, is about a marginalized group and its relationships with its country and institutions. As for the movement’s future, Stulberg argues that “in the current educational, technological, and pop culture moment—LGBTQ social change occurs in and through culture, sometimes with the backing of law and policy, and sometimes outside of it.” Stonewall and other moments in the struggle exemplify youth’s crucial role. Not surprisingly, Stulberg suggests that schools and media are at the forefront of LGBTQ social change. Stulberg’s book and references provide a portal into further study. Other relevant resources include George Chauncey’s Gay New York (CH, Nov’94, 32-1725) and Why Marriage? (2004) and Lillian Faderman's The Gay Revolution (CH, Feb’16, 53-2763). Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.

2. Same-sex marriage and social media : how online networks accelerated the marriage equality movement. Gibson, Rhonda. Routledge, 2018. 177p bibl index, 9781138894839 $150.00, 9781138894853 $39.95, 9781315179773 $39.95

Gibson (UNC) provides a comprehensive analysis of how social media contributed to the increased visibility of, and public support for, same-sex marriage in the US. She begins by describing the history of marriage in the US, news coverage of same-sex marriage and how the personal attitudes of journalists informed such coverage, the advent and use of social media for civic engagement, and how social media, by transcending geography, helped lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer groups establish a sense of community. Gibson identifies the “messaging strategies” of prominent organizations in support of same-sex marriage, as well as strategies organizations used against same-sex marriage, particularly conservative religious organizations and queer organizations that viewed marriage as a hetero-normative and patriarchal issue/distraction. Gibson concludes by using two prominent theories of persuasion—the spiral of silence and the theory of dissonant identity priming—to explain how and why people (quickly) came to support same-sex marriage. Throughout, she offers important insights into the ways communities could use social media to facilitate political participation and shift public opinion. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


The accepted historical narrative is that society’s vulnerability to the AIDS crisis of the 1980s was fomented by the gay sexual revolution of the 1970s. Batza (Univ. of Kansas) uses archival material and interview data to uncover a different history of the events leading up to the AIDS crisis. Rather that springing from a single taproot of gay identity politics, the earliest and most trusted efforts to address AIDS grew from fibrous roots of 1970s gay health activism, social and political movements, and purposeful adaptations of existing institutions. Case studies of gay health clinics in Boston, Los Angeles, and Chicago illuminate the context in which volunteers, medical professionals, and researchers were trained and prepared during the 1970s to be the first responders in the AIDS crisis. The Boston clinic was rooted in community organizing efforts against neighborhood gentrification; the Los Angeles center focused on treating the oppression sickness afflicting marginalized individuals; and the Chicago clinic emerged from gay doctors’ dissatisfaction with their clinical medical education. These clinics were trusted by gay clients ill-served by mainstream medicine; they were experienced in the political
organization and collaboration essential to advancing the multidimensional cause of gay health. An illuminating and well-researched volume. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.


New and established scholars explore the intersection of religion and sexuality to challenge the assumption that religious individuals and groups universally opposed the sexual liberalism of the 20th century. Comstock's purity crusade in the 19th century and campaigns against abortion and gay rights in the late 20th century bookend a century of more nuanced religious perspectives on sexuality. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish groups built on the Cold War consensus of the "Judeo-Christian heritage" to defend a variety of sexual policies, including an anti-pornography stance focused on "perversion" rather than heterosexuality. Jews, Catholics, and Mormons promoted pronatalist policies, and mainline Protestants argued for birth control. Catholics worried about the dangers of celibacy, and Mormon women cultivated their sexuality to exert power within traditional families. Gay and lesbian sexualities also found expression within spiritual movements. Gay men sought meaningful relationships in spiritual communion with each other in nature. Reconstructionist Jews ordained female, gay, and lesbian rabbis. The YWCA, yoga, the celibates in Father Divine's Peace Mission movement, and—in the midst of the dark AIDS crisis—the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco offered alternative visions of religious and sexual politics. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

5. "We met in Paris" : Grace Frick and her life with Marguerite Yourcenar. Howard, Joan E. Missouri, 2018. 436p bibl index, 9780826221551 $45.00, 9780826274045 Howard wrote her dissertation on Yourcenar and is presently director of Petite Plaisance, Yourcenar and Frick's one-time home. Accordingly she is well qualified to "rectify the prevailing perception of Grace Frick and her relationship with Marguerite Yourcenar" (as she writes in her acknowledgements). Howard's dissertation benefited from interviews with Yourcenar in the 1980s; as director of the Frick/Yourcenar home/museum, she has at her fingertips decades of daybook entries, correspondence, and financial and legal papers. Howard demonstrates that the two women shared many enthusiasms—literature, art, travel, nature, the ancient world—and she provides numerous examples of their collaboration in translation and editing. She notes occasions when the financial status of one of the women improved and her will promptly reflected that new status in her partner’s favor. As Howard explains, Frick regularly served as "gatekeeper" to free Yourcenar to write; that responsibility often then elicited the "Grace bashing" discussed in chapter 30 ("Grace Bashing Begins"). This first Frick biography will interest not only devotees of the two women but also anyone wishing to learn more about literary collaboration, 20th-century women’s education, Franco-American relations, and lesbianism (although this is not a militant text). Regrettably, the book’s title does little to evoke the seriousness, depth, and breadth of this fine book. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.
September 2018 Reviews


   This is the third edition of Diversity in the Power Elite, and each edition bears its own subtitle (1st ed., subtitled Have Women and Minorities Reached the Top?, CH, Jul’98, 35-6547; 2nd ed., How It Happened, Why It Matters, CH, Apr’07, 44-4767). The subtitle of the present edition signifies Zweigenhaft and Domhoff’s shift in emphasis, with a series of chapters describing the modest increase in diversity in the power elite. Somewhat tedious chapters on Jews, women, blacks, Latinos, Asians, and LGBT people form the core of the book. The most interesting chapter is the last one, “The Ironies of Diversity.” The authors argue that the central irony is that the diversity achieved “reinforces the unchanging nature of the class structure and increases the tendency to ignore class inequalities.” Another featured irony is the “improbable partnership” between African American leaders and Republican leaders to redistrict southern states into a few majority African American congressional districts and mostly predominately white districts with Republican majorities. To understand the limited gains in diversity, one must understand that class, education, and skin color are crucial, as is the ability to conform to the white Christian male culture that still dominates the upper echelon of US society.

   Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates.

2. **Just one of the boys: female-to-male cross-dressing on the American variety stage.** Rodger, Gillian M. Illinois, 2018. 242p bibl index, 9780252041518 $95.00, 9780252083150 $28.00, 9780252050169 $25.20

   Just One of the Boys is a fitting complement to Rodger’s first book, Champagne Charlie and Pretty Jemima (CH, Dec’10, 48-1984), a superb overview study of variety amusements on 19th-century American stages. That earlier volume drew attention to amusement forms aimed largely at urban, working-class, white male audiences, noting how these entertainments provide a window into a changing society impacted by class, ethnicity, gender, and economics. As a musicologist, Rodger (Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) is especially sensitive to sheet music and other sources (such as reviews) that provide specific insight into performance methods and onstage interpretations of popular songs. Whereas Rodger’s first book is more general in its coverage, this second book delves deeply into the lives and careers of significant male impersonators, looking at reasons for their popularity (in both the US and the UK) and analyzing the types of songs included in their repertoires. This study is most enlightening in its chapters on performers—in particular Annie Hindle, the first male impersonator on the US stage, and Ella Wesner, a performer prominent in the US theatrical world. Serious students of variety entertainment will find much to delight them in Rodger’s impeccably researched and explicated work, the earlier volume as well as this one. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

3. **A queerly joyful noise: choral musicking for social justice.** Balén, Julia. Rutgers, 2017. 211p bibl index, 9780813588391 $95.00, 9780813588384 $24.95, 9780813588414 $24.95

   Balén (California State Univ., Channel Islands) brings to this monograph her background in comparative cultural and literary studies plus almost 30 years of singing in queer choruses, and she draws on archival work and some 50 interviews. Her primary question, as stated in the appendix, is “Why and how have LGBTIQA people been making strategic use of choral musicking for social justice?” Balén begins with a
comparative discussion of queer choral musicking in the labor movement in the early 20th century and the Civil Rights Movement, narrowing to important contemporary queer social institutions that seek to create community and foster social justice: Pride festivals, queer community centers, Gay Games, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The focus then turns to an overview of queer choruses—their histories and characteristics—and how they have created counterstories that queer culture and expand choral singing. The final part addresses the importance of emotion, even erotics, for an understanding of singing’s power, particularly as it emerges in queer choral musicking to support evolving identity formation, including healing or healthy identities. Very readable yet grounded in theoretical ideas, the book lifts up a complex intersection of joyful celebration and political resistance. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals; general readers.

August 2018 Reviews

Bosson, Vandello (both, Univ. of South Florida) and Buckner (Marymount Univ.) have created an undergraduate survey textbook covering almost all current topics now being used in courses relating to sex and gender. Starting with terminology, then research methods (mentioning the strengths and weaknesses of each term and research method), they proceed to describe the areas studied in the field, devoting a chapter to each topic. These include nature/nurture theories for the etiology and development of sex/gender differences and similarities (with evidence for and against each theory); gender stereotypes; sexism and discrimination; cognitive, personality, and emotional differences and similarities; language (verbal and non-verbal) by and about the genders; sexual orientation; social networks; marriage; labor divisions; physical and mental health; and finally aggression. As a textbook, The Psychology of Sex and Gender contains many photographs, tables, figures, graphs, and learning guides; a summary and concluding information bookend each chapter. The text encourages the student to move beyond passive reading into active thinking. This volume is best suited to undergraduate classes in psychology and related fields. Summing Up: Recommended. Undergraduates.

2. LGBT psychology and mental health: emerging research and advances. ed. by Richard Ruth and Erik Santacruz. Praeger, 2017. 283p bibl index, 9781440843372 $60.00, 9781440843389
The psychology field has a troubled history when it comes to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender fluid communities. The field also is guilty of conducting research with a majority of economically privileged white subjects. Editors Ruth (George Washington Univ.) and Santacruz (Children's National Medical Center) assemble voices from significant LGBT psychology contributors, borrowing inspiration from racial, feminist, and queer theory frameworks. This book represents a departure from the past, pointing out previous misconceptions and affirming the growing push for inclusiveness in psychology. The editors term it a "coming out coming of age." The first chapter presents powerful biographical narratives from the editors themselves, each detailing early experiences as a gay male living an intersectional life. Their experiences are closely linked to the goals of this collection of essays: give the underrepresented and underexplored LGBT voice and breadth within psychology and mental health. Topics mindfully explored include trans-inclusiveness and trans-affirmation, gender fluidity, diversity, intersectionality, LGBT people of color and microaggressions, new addiction and substance abuse treatment methods, topics in health disparities, emerging health policies, and a chapter
on a health graduate program curriculum that examines culturally competent health care to combat LGBT health disparities. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

3. LGBTQ events 2nd ed. ed. by Robert C. Evans. Salem Press/Grey House, 2018. 2v bibl indexes, 9781682175910 $175.00, 9781682175927

The dozen years since the first edition was published (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Events, 1848–2006, 2007) have seen a watershed in the history of these people, with their unions now receiving legal blessing in many countries and even religious blessings by increasingly mainstream denominations. The articles in this excellent work are well written, and the inclusion of “Key Figures” at the beginning of each is very helpful. The book has several indexes and tables of content. It is amply illustrated with photographs, posters, and other art work. The references for further reading are extensive without being overwhelming. The boxes with quotations from landmark publications are worth exploring. The list of contributors is impressive, although most seem to be affiliated with North American institutions. That being said, events on the international scene do seem to get their share of coverage. There is also good coverage of racial and ethnic diversity within the LGBTQ community. There is an electronic edition, which hopefully is being updated routinely. The day that encyclopedias, like this one, should appear only in electronic format is fast approaching. Summing Up: Essential. All public and undergraduate libraries.


Griffith (Washington Univ.), also author of Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity (CH, Feb ’05, 42–3358), offers a wide-ranging, panoramic history of the relationship between American Christians and public debates about sexual morality in the 20th and early 21st centuries. The author shows that despite the changing focus of concerns—from sexually explicit literature in the early 20th century, to birth control in the middle part of the century, to sex education in public schools and abortion, to gay rights and same-sex marriage in more recent years—debates in the Christian tradition about sexual morality share common themes, among them preservation of the traditional order of the family, the "dignity" of women, and the rights of Christians to educate their own people. By treating a variety of topics, Griffiths clearly reveals the ways in which patterns of thought appear and are transformed in various debates across time. This book is well informed, carefully researched, and accessible. Nonspecialists will be able to follow the narrative with ease, and specialists will appreciate the book’s overarching analytical clarity. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.


Noble (Univ. of Southern California) has broad experience researching the design of digital media platforms and their impact on society. In Algorithms of Oppression, she offers her readers a lens to discover, analyze, and critique the search engine algorithms that perpetuate stereotypes and racist beliefs about people of color, women, LGBTQ individuals, non-Christians, and other marginalized groups. Through black-and-white screenshots, Noble provides a series of compelling examples of popular Google search phrases and the results they retrieve, which anyone can repeat at home if they do not believe what they see. She also critiques Google’s monopoly on information, the power of moneyed industries to perpetuate oppression of the marginalized, and the lack of diversity in Silicon Valley: she argues that these factors affect the tech industry’s ability to prevent racism and sexism from seeping
into its code, apps, search engines, and other products. This book will be of great interest to academic librarians who teach information literacy courses, as well as students and faculty in computer science, ethnic studies, gender studies, and mass communications. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

July 2018 Reviews

1. Gender in the twenty-first century: the stalled revolution and the road to equality. ed. by Shannon N. Davis, Sarah Winslow, and David J. Maume. California, 2017. 295p bibl index, 9780520291386 $85.00, 9780520291393 $34.95, 9780520965188 $85.00

According to the editors, the purpose of the book is to examine how "gender affects our social interactions and our social institutions which, in turn, influence our everyday lives." It is not exactly breaking news that societies place different expectations on boys and girls, or that gender, as opposed to sex, is socially constructed, and that gender differences can lead to gender inequality. The articles are thoroughly researched and present a convincing picture of many societal institutions, such as family, education, work, religion, the military, and sports, while also considering gender politics as they affect various segments of society, such as corporate America, health care, and immigration, to name a few.

The book's strength is its in-depth analysis of the contemporary US; the unscripted and sometimes hidden ways in which gender impacts male and female lives are described in illuminating detail. The chapter on gay rodeos in Texas, especially, presents gender issues in an innovative way. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers/faculty.

2. Legally straight: sexuality, childhood, and the cultural value of marriage. Rollins, Joe. New York University, 2018. 193p index, 9780814775981 $50.00, 9781479812585 $50.00

This book provides excellent interdisciplinary insight on the historical, rhetorical, religious, cultural, social, political, economic, stereotypical, and legal aspects of how American marriage laws gradually expanded from 1971 until 2015 to include same-gender couples without impinging on opposite-gender couples' ability to marry. Rollins (Queens College) closely examines arguments raised by proponents and defendants, as well as the details of published opinions of state and federal appellate courts pivotal to impacting final decisions by the US Supreme Court. His legal research is similar to that at the core of his previous book, AIDS and the Sexuality of Law (CH, Sep'04, 42-607). Rollins's reference notes point to specific testimony delivered by pro-heteronormative legal teams critical to yielding judicial decisions in favor of the opposition's expansionary goals for LGBTQ citizens. The nuances of these detailed judicial opinions become fuel for future research on public policy, civil rights, jurisprudence, and questions of unforeseen consequences when putting experts into a courtroom. Although this book incorporates courtroom legal jargon, overall it is very accessible to undergraduates. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.


Janovy (Kansas City Public Radio) offers an exceptional portrayal of LGBT activism in Kansas and LGBT folks who proudly claim the state as their home. The book is organized into four parts. Part 1 depicts the personal and political losses LGBT persons encountered in Kansas during the early 2000s. Part 2 outlines the revival of LGBT activism within Kansas, with activists developing new alliances, goals, and targets. Part 3 describes additional losses alongside minor victories (e.g., establishing gay-straight alliances in
high schools) and learning from past mistakes (e.g., the error of including sexual orientation, but not gender identity, in proposed nondiscrimination ordinances). And part 4 discusses an evolving acceptance of LGBT persons and current LGBT successes in municipalities across the state. This exquisitely written book captures the experiences and emotions of everyday activists and shows how politics informs personal lives (e.g., when a city council vote can make a LGBT person feel un/accepted within a community). This work reveals how losses regarding pro-LGBT policies and protections “in the long game, often built to victories.” A riveting, insightful love letter to Kansas’s unsung LGBT heroes.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

4. The queer fantasies of the American family sitcom. Pugh, Tison. Rutgers, 2018. 246p bibl index, 9780813591728 $99.95, 9780813591711 $28.95, 9780813591735 $28.95

Family sitcoms have been a staple of American television since the 1950s. Most of them entertain, on multiple levels, younger audiences as well as parents. They cover timely social issues and interpersonal dynamics of families. While there has been research into the deeper effects of the family sitcom on viewers, this study covers the subtle sexual dynamics of hetero-normalcy and homosexuality in six popular sitcoms from 1957 to the present day. Leave It to Beaver, The Brady Bunch, The Cosby Show, Roseanne, Hannah Montana, and Modern Family are covered in separate chapters. Networks and society have altered what is considered “family appropriate” over time. Studies show homosexual characters on television make viewers less prejudiced against a homosexual lifestyle. This book takes an interesting, in-depth look at a rarely researched topic associated with family-hour television. Each program presents a challenge to the overall topic in that some shows avoid the subject of sexuality directly but quietly allude to it (Leave It to Beaver), and others intertwine it into the fabric of the plotlines (Modern Family). Recommended for LGBTQ and television history collections.

Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.

5. Russian homophobia from Stalin to Sochi. Healey, Dan. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. 286p bibl index, 9781350000780 $88.00, 9781350000773 $29.95, 9781350000803

This ambitious, well-sourced, eminently readable volume functions as a corrective to Western LGBTQ scholarship, which treats the sexual subjects of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation as outliers, and as an overview of available archival material regarding the Soviet and Russian queer experience since the mid-century. Healey (Russian history, Oxford) aims to trace the origins and consequences of "modern" Russian homophobia, which he firmly roots in the Stalinist project, in a way that distinguishes it from the critiques of the postcolonial West. The book comprises nine case studies organized into three parts: "Homophobia in Russia after 1945," "Queer Visibility and 'Traditional Sexual Relations,'" and "Writing and Remembering Russia's Queer Past." Attention is given, by choice and necessity, more to male homosexuality and lesbianism, with less focus on bisexual or trans experiences. In particular, Healey is concerned with the genesis of political homophobia that has found new impetus under Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party, the ensuing federal ban on "gay propaganda" enacted in 2013, and the sweeping city council decree in Moscow banning LGBTQ pride parades for a full century. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

The authors of these essays situate the modern origins of sexology/sexual science/sexuality studies (the terms are used more or less interchangeably) within a global rather than a narrowly Eurocentric or Euro-American context. Psychologists, physicians, sociologists, anthropologists, eugenacists, feminists, and Western-oriented nationalists worked in concert across national/colonial boundaries and often embraced sexology as part of a modernizing political agenda. The collection examines developments in southern Africa, Argentina, Chile, China, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, and elsewhere. Individual authors trace international networks of professionals who discuss such topics as homosexuality and heterosexuality, monogamy, vaginal as opposed to clitoral orgasm, the supposed sexual markers of criminal tendencies, the relevance of ancient erotic texts such as the Kama Sutra for modern sex education, and the relationship of sexual science to feminism, communism, Third World nationalism, and eugenics. Most authors stress the importance of in-country as well as global influences. However, this reviewer shares the disquiet alluded to by Howard Chiang in his afterword (pp. 444–50). In their efforts to highlight contributions to sexology by professionals outside Europe and North America, the authors have all too often paid little attention to the context of colonialism, imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students/faculty/professionals.

7. Patient zero and the making of the AIDS epidemic. McKay, Richard A. Chicago, 2017. 432p bibl index, 9780226063812 $105.00, 9780226063959 $35.00, 9780226064000 $35.00

After conducting and recording 52 interviews and exhaustively reviewing primary source materials and a wealth of literature on the subject, McKay (Univ. of Cambridge) successfully corrects the record regarding the so-called "patient zero" of the AIDS epidemic. Gaétan Dugas, a French Canadian transatlantic Air Canada flight attendant who died of AIDS in 1984, was widely believed to be the individual who first introduced the human immunodeficiency virus into the United States and Canada. The author explains the misuse and misunderstanding of the term "patient zero," discusses different origin theories covering central Africa and Haiti, and examines the social and cultural aspects of the early North American AIDS epidemic from approximately 1981 to 1996. Particularly powerful are his critiques of R. Shilts's often-cited bestseller And the Band Played On (1987), which depicted Dugas as an extremely promiscuous, even malicious, conduit of the disease. McKay also humanizes Dugas by presenting the perspectives of his friends, colleagues, former lover, healthcare providers, and others. The text contains detailed footnotes on almost every page, selected black-and-white photographs, a list of oral history interviews, and an extensive bibliography and index. This is an authoritative, corrective resource on the early history of the AIDS epidemic. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.

8. The feminist revolution: the struggle for women's liberation. by Bonnie J. Morris and D-M Withers. Smithsonian Books, 2018. 224p index, 9781588346124 $34.95

Morris (gender and women's studies, Berkeley) and Withers (fellow, Univ. of Sussex, UK) provide a thematic history of the women's movement in a text that is part visual anthology and part textbook. Despite largely focusing on feminist manifestations in the US and Britain, the authors take pains to incorporate international sources and events, most significantly through their inclusion of an array of visual sources—such as stamps, posters, flyers, and buttons—from countries including South Africa,
Russia, China, Australia, Greece, and Belgium. The authors begin by discussing the movement and how it was mobilized, the movement’s political and ideological commitments, and feminism’s strong ties to the Civil Rights Movement and activism by women-of-color. Next, the authors tackle women’s reclamation of the physical and mental treatment of the body, sexuality and lesbian feminism, culture and the workplace, publishing and media, music and the arts, and the antiwar and antinuclear proliferation debates. They close with a discussion of the radicalization and fragmentation of the movement and the implications for the education of the next generation of feminists. Including a foreword by Roxane Gay, this text provides an excellent and engaging introduction to the feminist movement. Summing Up: Essential. Public, general, and undergraduate levels/libraries.

June 2018 Reviews

1. Black on both sides: a racial history of trans identity. Snorton, C. Riley. Minnesota, 2017. 259p index, 9781517901721 $100.00, 9781517901738 $24.95, 9781452955865
Snorton (Africana studies and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies, Cornell) makes an essential contribution to gender studies and black studies. He draws from multiple epistemologies to help readers reconsider "trans" as both a term and an identity. The text is "an attempt to find a vocabulary for black and trans life ... it works to do more than provide a 'shadow history' or blackness in trans studies or transness in black studies.” Snorton seeks vocabularies for black and trans life through the science of sexuality, through explorations of transatlantic literature, and through the afterlife of Phillip DeVine. The author shares in the acknowledgments that he wrote this book “for those of you who have made new names and found new modes of naming.” That acknowledgment is the foundation of what his book accomplishes: to create new names and new modes of engaging with the past, and to wrestle with modes of categorization in literatures and archives, and with the collective amnesia that allows mainstream memory to forget Phillip DeVine as it memorializes Brandon Teena. This book is an outstanding contribution to conversations about black and trans studies; it will transform scholarly understandings of both fields and the intersections between them. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above; professionals.

2. Sex & gender: Christian ethical reflections. ed. by Mary Jo Iozzio and Patricia Beattie Jung. Georgetown University, 2017. 257p index, 9781626165298 $89.95, 9781626165304 $29.95, 9781626165311
This book collects articles previously published in the journals of the Society of Christian Ethics. Both the editors are scholars of theology, and both have published other works on the subject. Not all of the pieces in the present volume articulate a clear link to distinctively Christian themes or principles, but the diversity in approaches and assumptions adds to the richness of the collection. The topics range from natural law in relation to (same sex) marriage, to sexting, to the treatment of HIV/AIDS in Pentecostal communities in South Africa and how evangelical Christians might rethink their views on LGBT persons through new readings of the Bible. One of the most challenging of the essays forces one to rethink views on what is morally problematic in opposition to human trafficking when it comes to the moral agency of those who have chosen to engage in sex work. This collection is an excellent entrée into some of today's most daunting issues of sex and gender, but those who have access to the journals may wish to pass. Summing Up: Recommended. With the above caveat. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.
Sociologist Hoppe (Univ. at Albany, SUNY) has written a thoroughly researched, detailed account of how the promotion of a model of individual responsibility for a fatal disease such as HIV serves to transform a medical problem into a criminal problem. The author takes a historical look at how the "Public Health Police" developed a paradigm of "exceptionalism," or of addressing HIV as if it were different from other infectious diseases; in so doing, the focus shifted from trying to control the spread of the disease to trying to control people who were HIV-positive. While Hoppe tends to assume that most racial differences in rates of HIV infection, incarceration, or drug use are due to racism, he provides a firm historical foundation for understanding how steps taken to control the spread of the disease became punitive forms of social control when directed at subsets of the population, from the Evangelicals who decry HIV as a form of divine punishment to how criminalizing HIV leads to ignorant ideas about what the disease is and how it’s spread. While thorough in its analysis, the book remains a rather dry tome, albeit one chock-full of facts and insights. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

May 2018 Reviews

Stryker (gender and women’s studies, Univ. of Arizona) charts “a history of transgender people in the United States, concentrating mostly on the years after World War II.” This book is a substantial update to the original edition, published in 2008 (CH, May'09, 46-5351). The first chapter defines terms like "gender" and "identity politics" and brilliantly foregrounds the rest of the text. The five chapters that follow narrate a history of transgender people in the US through the aftermath of the 2016 election within “an expansive feminist framework.” Each chapter also includes small breakout sections that expand on terms like “gender dysphoria” and “drag balls” to guide less familiar readers through the text. Stryker deftly contextualizes the political divisions within the GLBT+ movement, especially during the movement to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 2007, and explores the divisions between the gay and transgender communities in regard to their relationships with the medical establishment. This book is required reading for historians, but it also represents an invaluable text for anyone who wants to better understand evolving concepts of gender. Summing Up: Essential. All libraries at all levels.

This book is rather difficult to define. In part, it is an autobiographical rumination and confessional. Additionally, it is an introductory overview of how patriarchy and feminism have been defined and conceptualized historically and in contemporary society. Finally, it is a call to action for all men and women to resist systems, institutions, and practices that promote and justify domination, objectification, and subordination of men over women, as well as men over men. Journalism professor Jensen (Texas), a self-proclaimed radical feminist, builds a compelling case revealing the injuries that “toxic masculinity” and patriarchy impose on both women and men. He pays particular attention to rape and rape culture, pornography and prostitution, and transgenderism, all the while challenging the pathology of patriarchy and the damage left in its wake. The result is an accessible, clearly written,
informative, non-threatening introduction to radical feminism aimed at young men to help them consider how larger social structures and ideology affect their daily lives and the micro-level interactions in which they engage with women as well as with one another. Summing Up: Essential. Most levels/libraries.

3. LGBTQ-inclusive hospice and palliative care: a practical guide to transforming professional practice. 
Acquaviva, Kimberly D. Harrington Park Press, 2017. 272p bibl index, 9781939594150 $60.00, 9781939594143 $25.00, 9781939594167 $19.99
In this book, Acquaviva (George Washington Univ. School of Nursing) skillfully addresses the issue of providing inclusive health care for members of the LGBTQ community, illuminating the unique challenges they face—particularly when it comes to end-of-life care. Central to the text is Acquaviva's conviction that being truly inclusive does not simply mean treating everyone the same, or providing a specialized form of care to LGBTQ patients. It is about individualized care for all, which means addressing institutional policies and practices in order to ensure inclusiveness for every patient, family, caregiver, and health care professional. The text examines the relationships between a range of issues, including sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, gender discordance, gender nonconformity, gender dysphoria, sexuality, and sexual health, considering all of these in the context of providing inclusive palliative and end-of-life care. The text enhances the reader's sensitivity to language bias, for example, and introduces strategies for practitioners to become advocates for policy reforms that promote inclusiveness. The extensive glossary of terms, thorough bibliography, and real-life-perspective vignettes all make this a relevant, invaluable resource for students and professionals alike. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, faculty, and professionals.

4. No shortcut to change: an unlikely path to a more gender-equitable world. Ellerby, Kara. New York University, 2017. 265p buibl index, 9781479893607 $89.00, 9781479817160 $30.00, 9781479803521
Ellerby (Univ. of Delaware) critiques what she calls the "add-women-and-stir" inclusion approach to equality even as she recognizes that in some instances these policies have led to advancements for women. However, she argues, these approaches cannot result in equality and reinforce some inequalities even as they ameliorate others. Including women in existing institutions, structures, and discourses reproduces hegemonic masculinity and neoliberal governance while leaving structural inequalities unchallenged. Ellerby applies her argument to three areas: women's representation, economic rights, and violence against women. For example, in chapter 6, Ellerby argues that protecting women against violence requires an "active feminist or women's movement." These movements are necessary to get governments to be more responsive and to get women to see "private" violence as a human rights violation. However, states continue to frame violence against women as "private" and to ignore the structural nature of violence against women. Ellerby argues that framing "gender-based violence" as "masculinized violence" expands the scope of what counts as violence, denaturalizes male violence, and makes it more difficult to frame violence as a private or "women's" issue. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.