Reinstating Transgression: 
Emerging political economies of queer space
American University, Washington DC   April 17-18, 2010

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Introductory Notes for the Colloquium

Reinstating Transgression: 
Reimagining public policy for 
emerging political economies of queer space
The Vancouver Peninsula
Problem Statement:
New tolerance & protections /
Persisting inequities / Shifting space

"As resistant identities open up further possibilities, new landscapes are produced."
Teresa Dirsuweit, Johannesburg 1999\textsuperscript{12}

Globalization, Uganda & proxy Sex Wars

"[T]here is a residuum that hooks queer, this violent rejection and despoliation of the norm by the exiled, to the newly disposable populations produced by a state characterized by casual despotism."
Philip Derbyshire 1994\textsuperscript{16}

"Reality is not dialectical, colonialism is."
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri 2000\textsuperscript{17}
Public policy dilemmas: Expanding individual rights versus constructing social infrastructure
The limits of queer theory & revisiting material contexts

"It is commonly felt that Queer Theory is less an ongoing event, than a periodisable moment, a relatively defunct agenda that can be safely syllabised and packaged for digestion through a shrink-wrapped assortment of contained debates (essentialism versus social construction, the politics of outing, transgendering, etc.). The recent 'economic turn' in gender and sexuality studies...has the refreshing benefit of creating space for a long over-looked set of questions about the relation of class to sexuality." Stephen Shapiro 2004\textsuperscript{28}
Anthropologies of the queer spaces of community-engagement

"I am for the decentralization, the regionalization of all pleasures."
Michel Foucault

Spatial forms are social structures...Space, severed from its social production, is thus fetishized as a physical entity and undergoes, through inversion, a transformation. Represented as an independent object, it appears to exercise control over the very people who produce and use it. Rosalyn Deutsche 1996
Confronting policy narratives of homophobia and re-privileging

"In her examination of the Lesbian and Gay Association Germany (LSVD), Jennifer Petzen (2005) argues that the 'integration of gay migrants' is now a central goal of mainstream gay politics in Germany. Petzen regards this as a new trend among white gays, who are staking out their territory in the lucrative integration game and entering mainstream politics. White homosexuals assert their equality with white heterosexuals by claiming their expert status in the civilising of the 'homophobic migrant'."

Jin Haritaworn with Esra Erdem and Tamsila Tauqir 2008
Revisiting political economic contexts of queer space

"[T]he public, like the definition of the city, is an ideological artefact, a contested and fragmented terrain."
Rosalyn Deutsche 1996

"Poverty, war, alienation, environmental destruction, colonialism, unequal development, boom/bust cycles, private property, individualism, commodity fetishism, the fetishization of the body, the fetishization of violence, guns, drugs, child abuse, underfunded and bad education these things are key to the successful functioning of the free market."
Tony Kushner 1994
1969 - Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau decriminalizes homosexuality in Canada.


1973 - Homosexuality declassified as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association.

1985 - Federal government officially recognizes gay and lesbian rights.

1986 - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney names the first gay cabinet minister.

1997 - Ontario becomes the first province to pass a hate crime law.

1999 - Canadian Supreme Court strikes down laws criminalizing privacy and the use of gay pornography.

2005 - Same-sex marriage legalized in Canada.

2011 - Official recognition of same-sex marriage by the federal government.
Locating the state in the reinstating of transgression

"[I]t is now space more than time that hides things from us[.]
Edward Soja 1989\textsuperscript{46}

"The present epoch will perhaps be above all the epoch of space. We are in an epoch of simultaneity: we are in the epoch of juxtaposition, the epoch of near and far, of the side-by-side, of the dispersed."
Michel Foucault\textsuperscript{47}
**BITCHHUNT**

Neoconbear  
Ottawa, ON

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**Hotheaded MP Seeks Hot Majority**

Recently outed minister of transport seeks discreet times with like-minded men to stand two feet away and out of camera range at gay fundraisers and in public. Must have own closet.

**Turn Ons:**
- Oil sands, censorship, Stephen Harper, body scanners, underwear models, power, double standards. Flared nostrils step to the front of the line.

**Turn Offs:**
- Democracy, human rights, clean air, polar bears (unless they are wearing a harness)

Last login: February 2, 2010 at 5:19 pm

—Tony Correia

**XTRA! MARCH 25, 2010**
Conclusions:
Unpacking queer space into multiple debates on public policy

"[W]e must not imagine a world of discourse divided between accepted discourse and excluded discourse, or between the dominant discourse and the dominated one; but as a multiplicity of discursive elements that can come into play in various strategies. It is this distribution that I must reconstruct, with the things said and those concealed, the enunciations required and those forbidden[.]

Michel Foucault 1978\textsuperscript{56}

"It is at these rarer moments when the imposition and seduction of Western norms fail that the possibility of different conceptions of desires, politics, and subjectivities emerge."\textsuperscript{57}

Joseph Massad 2007
diverging (spatialized) queer activist & public policy conversations + research agendas:

(individualized) human rights oriented (of most interest to the more privileged strata of sexual minorities)

versus

(collective) 'needs-based' related to 'social programs' (of most interest to the less privileged strata of sexual minorities)
(collective) 'needs-based' policy makes for 'social programs' (of most interest to the less privileged strata of sexual minorities) = social infrastructure

research & scholarship is an aspect of social infrastructure

erasure of scholarship (especially around social inequities) = disruption of the construction, evaluation and re-evaluation of social infrastructure putting some vulnerable groups of sexual minorities more at risk

interdisciplinary research and theory is needed to build new and badly needed forms of social infrastructure for all sexual minorities