
Summaries

The coming of age of gay studies. Dutch sociology and homosexuality, 1965-1985

by Mattias Duyves

Only since 1965 there exists a sociology of homosexuality in the Netherlands. Its central topic was until the end of the 1970's the interplay of social discrimination and individual deviance. The research was heavily informed by essentialist psychology. The political version of this current defended the integration of the homosexual in Dutch society as 'normal and the same'. Halfway the 1970's the 'integration-politics' came under attack as a result of its own success, the critique of new radical gay and lesbian movements and the advance of a new theoretical approach. 'Being normal but not the same' became the hallmark of gay politics. It resulted in the 1980's in the establishment of interdisciplinary departments for gay studies at some Dutch universities (Amsterdam, Utrecht). Gay studies are strongly influenced by 'constructionist' theoretical approaches; one of its foremost merits is the development of educational facilities.

The history of sexology, the sociology of sexuality

by Gert Hekma

In this article the author describes the development from 'psychopathia sexualis' to sexology at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. He argues that sexology shaped a new concept and a new practice of sexuality which inform contemporary social and sociological views. Especially Albert Mol's dichotomy of sexual outlets and sexual relations has dominated for a long time the definition of sexuality in (social) sciences. It determined the biological and psychological biases of sexology which inhibited a sociological analysis of sexuality. Sexuality is seen as a social construction which interferes with biological processes. Only in such a perspective a sociology of sex is possible.

The national panic over child murder after World War II and the development of Cold War American sexual ideology

by George Chauncey jr.

In the decade following World War II a panic about child murder and other 'sex crimes' against children and women seized much of the United States. National magazines and local newspapers provided chilling accounts of a series of grotesque incidents, and the resulting public alarm led more than 15 major states to convene special commissions to study the problem of the 'habitual deviated sex offender' who committed such crimes. Their establishment contributed to the further escalation of the hysteria, and provided psychiatrists, who

dominated their work, a means of mobilizing public support for legislation which increased their power to intervene in judicial proceedings related to sexual behavior. Because of the enormous concern given their work, the commissions became also a major vehicle for the construction of Cold War sexual and gender ideology and they helped foster public hostility toward homosexuals by creating the image of the homosexual as a child molester. Although the national panic has been almost entirely forgotten, it played an important role in the development of Cold War American culture.

Mati and lesbians

by Marie-José Janssens and Wilhelmina van Wetering

In *Mati and lesbians* the authors draw attention to a continuing allegiance among migrant Creole-Suriname women in the Netherlands to traditional views on homosexuality. Although many contacts have been established between modern feminist groups and Creole-Suriname women's organizations, the views on lesbianism do not tend to converge. Not only the *mati* proper, women-friends who stick to patterns of behaviour characteristic of the past and the mother country, but also many younger women moving ahead in the host society prefer not to be classed as lesbians. This fact, the authors argue, should be appreciated as an attempt to keep the ranks closed among the female members of an ethnic group. In Suriname, women's activities have always been very important for maintaining the coherence of the Creole group. After migration, many Creole women have kept making investments in social occasions that rally kinsmen and other valued relations. A majority of women seem to expect greater social gains from filling traditional roles and abiding by shared views fostering ethnic unity, than from the assertion of individual freedom and emancipation that is held out as a promise by feminism and lesbianism.

Social research on AIDS

by Rob Tielman and Frits van Griensven

The Gay Studies Department of Utrecht State University has just started as one of its main projects a longitudinal psycho-social study of a 1000 gay men who are at risk of AIDS. The research is being carried out in co-operation with bio-medical investigators of the University of Amsterdam. One of its purposes is to answer the question why of all those men infected by the LAV/HTLV-III-Virus, 5% will develop AIDS and 95% probably not. The psycho-social study concerns variables such as the frequency and character of blood-to-blood- and sperm-to-blood-contacts, participation in networks, depression, identity, coping-behaviour, addiction, life-style and the like.