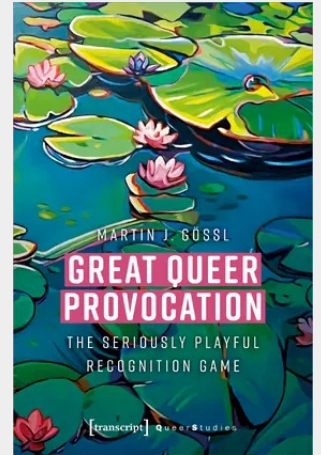


Great Queer Provocation

The Seriously Playful Recognition Game (translated from German by Henry Holland)

Queer cultures are vibrant components of the constantly transforming societies of the 21st century. This is both socially and anthropologically recognizable, as well as individually readable. Categories such as wealth, success, amusement, but also sexuality and beauty have undergone major changes within queer subcultures and have influenced the reality of life for the general public. The entanglements in heteronormative systems and capitalist orders are increasingly putting a queer point of view under pressure, so that the question seems justified: What makes someone or something queer? Martin Gössl reflects on the possibilities of queer recognition in different social contexts.

1. Why did you choose this topic? I have been fascinated for a while by social interactions within queer communities. First, because even though queer people do experience minority stress on so many levels, there is nothing like all-inclusive solidarity. Some are closer to general norms of femininity/masculinity and the common accepted representation of relationships than others. We know that, and many queer people are even following these unspoken rules voluntarily. Second, I realised that many social standards of appreciation have been successfully established, accepted and applied in- and outside of a queer world with a huge impact on queer communities. 2. What new perspectives does your book offer? In fact the book is an attempt to name existing social formations of contemporary queer communities by following dominant - mainly ›internal‹ - discourses. So on the one hand, the aim is to initiate a critical perspective if these discourses are ›really‹ internal and, on the other, to combine these discourses with useful theories from Queer Studies. 3. What makes your topic relevant for current research debates? Are we concerned about the current situation in the world? For sure, we can observe that many topics of human rights – explicitly queer rights – are again on the table of controversial political debates in many democratic countries. It has been comfortable to be part of a ›new normal‹, but what if political environments are changing? Solidarity is a fragile construct and easily abandoned, but it is essential when freedom could be lost or already minorities within minorities are restricted in their rights, again. 4. Choose one person you would like to discuss your book with! This is my favourite question and my answer is perhaps surprising: Angela Merkel. She has been a conservative politician and directly involved in so many important international agendas regarding human rights. She was able to define solid compromises by overcoming her own obstacles. I don't think that all her decisions as a politician were smart, but I assume she would be a perfect discussant about that over a great plate of Italian pasta with a good red wine on the side. 5. Your book summary in one sentence: The queer world may seem trivial for some, but the topics of our time are lying exactly in this world; my book makes this clear.



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