

Foucault, gay, subjectivity and the microsociology of emotions

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Abstract

The paper briefly maps the main contours and consequences of the queer embrace of Foucault's open attack against psychology and psychoanalysis. The queer scholars' refusal to provide a model of gay subjectivity (for fear of contaminating their analyses with the insidious disciplining and normalising effects of psychology) has resulted in a virtual embargo on any meaningful investigation of queer subjectivities. This has proven extremely shortsighted, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS social theory and activism. Using as points of departure Halperin's book *What do gay men want?* (2007), the paper hints at how the microsociology of emotions can be used to fill a conceptual vacuum in Foucault's understanding of the relationship between the government of self, discourses of power/knowledge and the government of others, thus providing a lifelike and dynamic model of gay subjectivity.

Biography

Alexander Lambevski is a founding editor and publisher of *Sextures*, an online international refereed academic journal for sexualities, cultures and politics, and an independent scholar from Sydney. He has published numerous refereed journal articles and book chapters, and currently is working on a book on queer emotions and sexual citizenship. alex@sextures.net or alex@mandrakeatm.com