**QUEER ENCOUNTERS**

**BITEXTUALITY and COMICS!**

**INTRO:** Dialogue is an important structuring dynamic across many discourses: religion, law, philosophy, psychology. But these structuring dialogues can be... heirarchical, combative, linear, end-oriented.

Queer comics have often been about sex-bodied visibly and unapologetically connecting.

Rather than looking to win an argument, reveal a particular truth, or privilege one voice or form, we use the interjunction of queerness and comics to explore other ways of being in relation.

That is not to say there might not still be power dynamics at play.

Comics forms have developed to represent bodies in action, rather than abstract argument.

We also suggest connections between end-oriented narrativity and the cultural injunction to mature—and ask how queer/comics can offer other (mature) ways to resist this.

We ask: what other forms of intercourse might a meeting of queerness and comics also enable?
Queer Encounters

1. The fundamental unfixing of identity
   Queer is...

2. The opening up of other ways of being in relation

The psychic and social incoherences and divisions that trouble any totality or finitude of identity

Queer negativity and queerness resistances of social forms that define the possibilities for and the limits of relationality.

Queer energies expand the possible grounds of the relational, give us new ways of being in relation and therefore...

New ways of being:

1. To be is to be in relation
2. Being in relation disrupts any coherence in being

Being.
DIALOGUE has some of the RISK and EXCITEMENT we confront in the INTIMATE ENCOUNTER.

DIALOGUE as THEORETICAL PRODUCTION

Through COLLABORATION and ARGUMENT - BETWEEN, we grapple with SOCIAL RELATIONS

NOT IN THE ABSTRACT

But MATERIALLY, TEXTUALLY.

DIALOGUE occurring AS WELL AS BETWEEN FORMS VOICES, JOSEPH

MODELS SOME OF THE DISRUPTIONS, PAUL

CONVERSES IN-OF QUEER RELATIONALITY.

INCOHERENCES AND co²BI—
Bisexual theory wants to unfix or explode
QUEER identity, or
QUEER can become fixed
as an oppositional position
QUEER can still come to stand for
LESBIAN ↔ GAY
at the expense of other non-normative sexual/feminine experiences
including bisexuality

Often erased or ignored — too “straight” to be QUEER, too “QUEER” to be included in mainstream sexual cultures
discourses. This is bisexual erasure

Bisexual theory similarly sits awkwardly
both within and outwith queer studies

+ can critique and resist both.
BiTEXTuality, or "biSEXUAL textuality," is characterised by a paradoxical relationality. Just like biSEXUALITY: as the apparent mid-point in a supposed binary, biSEXUALITIES connects hetero-SEXUALITIES and homo-SEXUALITIES even as it marks the very point of their division.

Whereas biTEXTuality names the image/text/reader dialogue, meaning is actively produced in the intercourse between picture and word. So it's a negotiated relation between the forces that make the picture and word cohere and the forces that drive them apart.

A bisexual perspective can focus on those very rifts which other identities may gain more from avoiding! Rather than a linear, end-oriented narrativity of coming-out, the picture and word cohere and the forces that drive them apart never result in a seamless oneness.

BiTEXTUALITY is premised upon flux: rather than a linear, end-oriented narrativity of identity, the possibility for change is therefore characterised by the same incoherences as the encounter.
TEXTUAL IMMATURE

Bisexuality is immature?

Comics is immature?

"GROW UP!"

"Being taken seriously means missing out on the chance to be frivolous, promiscuous and irrelevant!"

The desire to be taken seriously is precisely what compels people to follow.

The tried and true paths of knowledge production.

The queer art of failure.

We can instead explore the immature as sexual practice.

Textual to produce alternative forms of relation.

Wealth accumulation.

Reproduction.

Death.

Marriage.

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