
From the Selected Works of Brian L. Kelly

Spring 2011

Queer Youth Cultures

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Book Review: Susan Driver (Ed.) *Queer Youth Cultures* Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2008. 315 pp. \$83.50 (hardbound), \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 978-0-791-47338-2

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Affilia 2011 26: 226

DOI: 10.1177/0886109911405597

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[What is This?](#)

Matthews' comprehensive analysis of the political environment and policies that affect women who prostitute is enlightening, thought provoking, and engaging. This book is a great resource and educational tool for the reader who is seeking a value analysis of policy from a feminist perspective, including how policies affect interventions. Matthews explores the problem and offers an innovative model that can be implemented on the basis of current policies in the United Kingdom. This book can be used by students and educators as an example of international policy analysis.

Susan Driver (Ed.)

Queer Youth Cultures Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2008. 315 pp. \$83.50 (hardbound), \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 978-0-791-47338-2

Reviewed by: Brian L. Kelly, *Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA*
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This text, edited by Susan Driver, presents a collection of essays that challenge limiting conceptualizations of queer youth identity and highlight the evolving state of queer youth culture. The authors, some of whom are queer youths, argue that there are multiplicities of queer youth identities and cultures and that to study and/or write about queer youths, one must embrace the complicated and complex intersections of gender, race, and class that queer youths experience. This collection asserts that not all queer youths have the same experience or belong to one queer community. The authors contend that queer youths are reshaping their identities through the use of media (e.g., print, film, and music) and various forms of representation (e.g., written, visual, and performative). Queer youth underground magazines, music scenes, cyberspaces, drag shows, and pornography are challenging nonqueer youths' constructed representations of queer youths and creating spaces for queer youths to express themselves.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section explores how queer youths read and deconstruct meaning in a myriad of representations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), feminist, and youth cultures and how they reconstruct their identities in conversation with and in reaction to these representations, often forging and fostering new forms of culture and identity along the way. Angela Wilson's examination of lesbian punk rock scenes explores how a younger generation of lesbians, fed up with sexist and homophobic attitudes in heteronormative punk rock scenes and the lack of focus on lesbian issues in queercore scenes, developed dykecore scenes to focus on feminist issues. Cass Bird presents a photo essay in which the human subjects of our gaze challenge our notions of gender (are they male or female?), sexuality (are they gay, straight, queer?), and age (are they children, adolescents, or adults?). Cass and her subjects queer the photos and in turn our interpretations of their identities.

The second section examines representations of queer youths' desire in selected texts, films, and online pornography. Zeb J. Tortorrici's essay on queering pornography complicates binary understandings of sexual orientation, arguing that queer youth sexuality cannot be dichotomized. His essay challenges sanitized discourses on queer youth sexuality by purposefully sexualizing queer youth sexuality in his frank discussion on his experiences with consuming and performing in pornography.

The third section explores how queer youths are reconstructing political activism in terms of dialogue and actions. Neal Ritchie's essay on queer youth culture in Asheville, North Carolina, argues for a more radicalized, anarchized queer movement to counter the exclusionary practices and conformist ideologies present in the contemporary LGBT movement.

Students, educators, scholars, and researchers of social work and gender and women's studies will find a refreshing dialogue in *Queer Youth Cultures*. The inclusion of queer youth-authored essays offers an opportunity to explore the use and importance of voice and representation in queer youth scholarship and research. In addition, the collection offers feminist and womanist students and scholars an opportunity to explore the similarities and differences in queer youth, feminist, and womanist scholarship and research.
