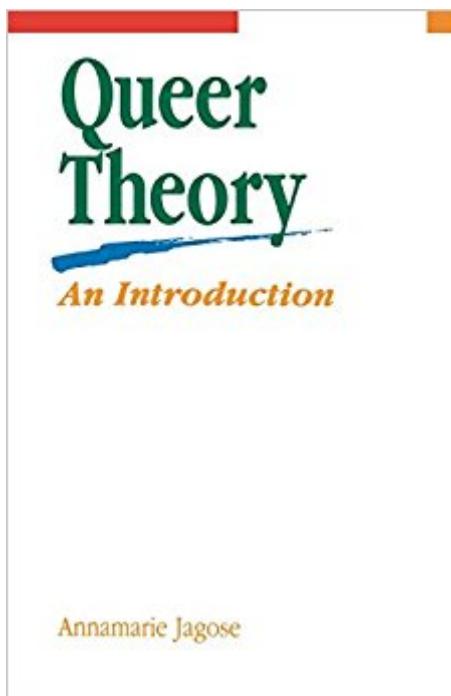


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Queer Theory: An Introduction



Synopsis

The political and academic appropriation of the term queer over the last several years has marked a shift in the study of sexuality from a focus on supposedly essential categories as gay and lesbian to more fluid or queer notions of sexual identity. Yet queer is a category still in the process of formation. In Queer Theory, Annamarie Jagose provides a clear and concise explanation of queer theory, tracing it as part of an intriguing history of same-sex love over the last century. Blending insights from prominent theorists such as Judith Butler and David Halperin, Jagose argues that queer theory's challenge is to create new ways of thinking, not only about fixed sexual identities such as heterosexual and homosexual, but also about other supposedly essential notions such as sexuality and gender and even man and woman.

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Customer Reviews

"Annamarie Jagose knows that queer theory did not spring full-blown from the head of any contemporary theorist. It is the outcome of many different influences and sources, including the homophile movement, gay liberation, and lesbian feminism. In pointing to the history of queer theory—a history that all too often is ignored or elided—Jagose performs a valuable service." -Henry Abelove, co-editor of *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*

In *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, Annamarie Jagose provides a clear and concise explanation of queer theory, tracing it as part of an intriguing history of same-sex love over the last century, from mid-century homophile movements to gay liberation, the women's movement and lesbian feminism,

to the re-appropriation of the term "queer". Carefully interrogating the arguments of supporters and opponents of queer theory, Jagose suggests that its strength lies in its questioning of the very idea of sexual identities. Blending insights from prominent queer theorists such as Judith Butler and David Halperin, Jagose argues that queer theory's challenge is to create new ways of thinking, not only about fixed sexual identities such as heterosexual and homosexual, but also about other supposedly essential notions such as "sexuality" and "gender" and even "man" and "woman".

This text will give you a lot to think about. There are a lot of things that Jagose covers in the comparatively short page number she takes. Thankfully, this text is a very clear introduction to queer theory, allowing those of us unfamiliar with the theory, the history, or even the lifestyles discussed a great beginning into a currently vast field. For the most part, Jagose describes queer theory in a chronological way, discussing the various movements that have led to what queer theory has become. One very important note is to know that this text is one of the most referred to text in queer theory, if you don't know what's in here, taking on something as excellent, yet heady as "The Routledge Queer Studies Reader" will leave you a bit lost. I will say that, if nothing else, this is a great way to start your studies of gender theory and the like.

Happy to obtain a copy.

This book is full of information and is simple and to the point. The most perfect book for someone who wants to begin self educating themselves on the history of Queer Theory.

Jagose knows the term "queer" didn't come out of anywhere. She does a good job relating the term to different times in culture. She also does a good job in relating the terms homo and heterosexual to different times. She compares the terms and talks about how one could not exist without the other. It's a really good and insightful read.

Jagose expertly introduces the basics of queer theory by emphasizing the work of, among others, Foucault and Judith Butler. The book serves also as a nice introduction to abstract concepts of critical theory more generally.

Had to read for a theology class - very informative.

Got for College course, easy to understand

Interesting read. Hard to understand.

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