

導讀文章：In the same boat? The gendered (in)experience of first heterosexual

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本文簡介

- 此篇文章來自二個研究計畫之成果，一是 WRAP (The Women, Risk and AIDS Project)，由 ESRC 及 Goldsmiths' College Research Fund and the Department of Health 所贊助之二年期研究計畫。WRAP 於 1988~1990 使用立意取樣，深度訪談 150 位 16~21 歲在倫敦與曼徹斯特之年輕女性（顧及到階級與種族的差異）。二是 MRAP (The Men, Risk and AIDS Project)，由 the Leverhulme Trust 所贊助之研究計畫。MRAP 於 1991~1992 訪問 50 位在倫敦的年輕男性（樣本有年齡、階級與種族之差異）。【p.160/E-18】
- In analyzing the interview accounts, the authors have taken 1st heterosexual intercourse to be a critically gendered moment in the development of heterosexuality. The authors consider the interview accounts of those young men/women's 1st heterosexual experiences of sexual intercourse as one way of making institutional heterosexuality visible. 【p.144/E-2】
- 使用 “*In the same boat ?*” 做為全文討論核心概念 (a gendered moment in the development of heterosexuality.) 的比喻。“In the same boat” 在於 Young people on the brink of heterosexual intercourse are in the same boat in that they have to take the same step from inexperience of intercourse to experience. “In the same boat ?” 在於 His achievement of manhood is her loss of autonomy. 以及 Through her participation is his performance she is inducted to the world of heterosexual sexuality, where she must learn to play by the masculine rules of the game, or take the consequences of resistance. Within this game, her sexual identity, subjectivity and desire are silent.

文獻探討~Feminism and heterosexuality

- The moment of “first sex” is not the only constitutive moment of heterosexuality. Becoming heterosexual occurs at differing levels of social activity, from the most grounded meeting of bodies to the most abstracted level of institutionalization.
- Sexuality is simultaneously both variable bodily states, desires and physical practices, and also culturally variable understandings of this embodiment and associated identities and social practice.
- Sexuality is embodied in the sense that it entails bodily activity; there is a physical aspect to sexual desire, gender and reproduction.
- Heterosexuality is grounded in this bodily sexuality, but it cannot be understood independently of the variable beliefs, values, ideologies, discourses, identities and social relationships through which people become socially heterosexual and practice heterosexuality.
- Heterosexuality is lived in distinctive lifestyles (especially tied to marriage/household arrangements) and in discourses of masculinity/femininity, normality/abnormality.

- Discussions of heterosexuality have generally been absent or constrained within feminism, yet lesbian theorists in different ways have made considerable progress in rendering heterosexuality and its effects visible.
- The question of sexual agency and identity

作者的宣稱

- Heterosexual “first sex” is an induction into adult masculinity for young men, within which the woman, whether sexuality experienced herself or not, plays an ambiguous role.
- Heterosexuality isn't a balanced (or even unbalanced) institutionalization of masculinity-and-femininity, it is masculinity.
- First heterosex is a double construction for young women: 1) is under pressure first to consent to the constitution of adult heterosexuality as the construction of masculinity, and then to fit herself to this construction. 2) Within this construction of masculinity, they must find ways of existing and making sense of themselves and their “otherness”.
- Heterosexuality cannot be understood without identifying both female power/empowerment and the social processes which work against it.

研究發現

1. How was it for him ?
 - 1st intercourse is his moment. (But not hers ! ! !)
 - Achieve intercourse is an empowerment moment of symbolic and physical importance.
 - 1st heterosex as a moment of agency and achievement ; embark on the 1st experience of sexual intercourse with the idea of becoming a man (through access to her body that the boy can achieve manhood)
 - whereby through a physical performance, his identity as a man, and therefore, a competent sexual actor is confirmed.
 - Positive, empowerment experience of 1st intercourse
2. How was it for her ?
 - Conceptions of 1st intercourse as about women's pleasure, performance or achievement of adult status are strikingly absent, and the women's accounts are generally much more disembodied and distanced.
 - The passage from inexperience to experience is far more ambiguous and contradictory.
 - The absence of female agency, power and pleasure ; the lack of positive, empowered experience
 - Confronts problems of how to manage this experience in terms of successful femininity, protect both her body and her reputation, and make sense of the experience for herself.

結論~How was it for you ?

- The social and sexual worlds of adolescents continue to be highly gendered.
- The two worlds of adolescent masculinity and femininity come together at the moment of “first sex” in a way that powerfully confirms respective positions of agency and object, of doing sex and of being done to.
- It’s possible that a key to female empowerment may lie in resisting the institutionalization of intercourse as the sexual act. It’s this social construction of intercourse that locks together the language and practices of male agent and female object, the fear and bravado of male performance and the absence of female sexual agency.
- The identification of “sex” with heterosexuality intercourse may have hindered the possibilities of our thinking on sexuality, could also offer some optimism for the future possibilities of reworking the languages and practices of being heterosexual.