

The sexed body through different normative regimes

Abstract:

In this presentation, I argue that the conceptions about sex as well as about gender has changed over the history of the western societies. Different models about sex were performed from 16th century on. Firstly, the one-sex model (with two different forms) of the Renaissance. Secondly, the two-sexes model of the Enlightenment. The scientific revolution of the Enlightenment inscribed knowledge about the sex and the body within the domain of medicine. Afterwards, bio-political control of the Victorian era reinforces this character of medicine as main and powerful tool for discipline both the body and the social body.

This two-sexes model changes slightly in the early twentieth century with the new theories about universal human bisexuality, social changes that are taking place at that time, new discoveries in Biology, the emergence of the new Endocrinology science and the invention of sex hormones. The birth of modern “transsexual” only could be explained in this context. At that time, first 20th century decades until forties, medicine was responsible for “revealing” the “true sex” inscribed -somehow- in the body. After the fifties, medicine and technology were responsible for “shaping” bodies in the heteronormative sex/gender system.

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