The Faggot's Claim to Name, or Deconstructing the Breeding Game

Beth Harris

DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.05.10

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure

Part of the Poetry Commons

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 License.

Recommended Citation
DOI: https://doi.org/10.13023/DISCLOSURE.05.10
Available at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/disclosure/vol5/iss1/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Theory at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory by an authorized editor of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
The Faggot's Claim to Name,
or Deconstructing the Breeding Game

by Beth Harris
Seattle, Washington

On a dismal, Seattle winter day,
two women sat far away
from each other
in the dimly lit Roma Cafe

But the harried dyke
on a short work break
and the bedraggled teen
on the run

both read the advice
from the same sex column¹

¹ Letters inspired by Dan Savage's column in Seattle's The Stranger, December 1994

Dear Het, Yet Childless
You are still a breeder
in my book
Although breeding
you forsook

When you have sex,
you must protect
against producing little tykes
— unlike the faggots
and the dykes

Lighten up, Ms. Het
embrace the "breeder" name
When you write, "Hi, Faggot,"
I do not complain
Although we both clearly know
I am not
a bundle of sticks

Forever,
Faggot

Hi, Faggot,
(The liberated woman addressed
the famed gay sex columnist)
I am afraid that you have misconstrued
sex for modern het womanhood
When you call us all "breeders"—
it is not true
for the conscientious few

Yes,
I must confess,
I am naturally born
a het

Nonetheless,
despite my attraction
to the masculine faction,
you should not assume
I will contribute to
the population boom

Signed,
Het, Yet Childless

Disclosure 5 (1996): REASON INCorporated
Beth Harr is
Reading the heated exchange,
the dyke thought,
I'm neither a het
nor childless

Though a homo,
I can clearly claim
the disputed breeder name

but to become a mama
without a family man,
I needed a plan

The sperm I got
was caught and donated
by a generous faggot

The homeless youth cried inside—
Het or dyke,
it made no difference
in my plight
when I got raped
on that night

"Old enough to bleed,
old enough to breed"

Beware—I am bearing more
than a child now
I'm breeding perpetual rage
Next time someone fucks with me,
they are going to burn

by Beth Harris
January 1, 1994

The Represented and the 'Real':
Economy, Postmodernity, and PostOrientalist Research

An Interview with Timothy Mitchell
Department of Politics, New York University

Conducted by Katherine Jones, Jennifer Kopf, and Angela Martin
disClosure Editorial Collective
Lexington, Kentucky
April 16, 1995

This interview was conducted during a visit Timothy Mitchell made to the University of Kentucky to give the lecture "Inventing 'The Economy'" as part of the 1995 Spring Social Theory Lecture Series sponsored by the University's multidisciplinary Committee on Social Theory. In this lecture, Professor Mitchell suggested that the concept of a 'national economy' is a very recent one, which emerged only after the 1930's depression and the widespread collapse of global systems of monetary representation. In their place, according to Mitchell, the concept of 'the economy' emerged as a totality of exchange processes within the boundaries of a fixed nation-state. The notion of 'the economy' as a fixed object was therefore central in emerging discourses of the nation-state as a fixed, bounded, geopolitical unit. Further, 'the economy' excluded 'non-economic' processes. Such public/private distinctions helped to maintain and re-create the effect of 'the economy'.

In addition to his recent work on 'the economy', Professor Mitchell has also written extensively on related issues. His 1988 book, Colonising Egypt explores the discursive construction of a British colonial rationality in 19th century Egypt. Dr. Mitchell has also written on the discourse of 'development' in Egypt and elsewhere, and on definitions of 'the state' as an object.

In this interview, Professor Mitchell discusses his past and ongoing research, methodological issues related to doing 'postorientalist' studies of the Middle East, gender and 'development', and Frederick Jameson's view of postmodernity.