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

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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
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

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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.