

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Harriet Bjerrum Nielsen: The Magical Pad

How is it possible to conceptualize identity work in relation to gender, without ending up in either an essentialistic or nominalistic position, both having problems with explaining change and variation? The paper argues for a solution that understands the concepts of identity, subjectivity and discourse as connected, but not mutual reducible. This point is illuminated by a metaphor of Freud's where the psychic world is described as a »magical pad« which allows for the combination of duration and change. The theoretical points are illustrated through an analysis of a 20 year old young woman. The analysis suggests that gendered subjectivity should not be defined through a specific content, but by the way images of and discourses about gender is tied together in a specific lifestory. In her gender-identity work this young woman uses the societal discourses to interpret and modify her own gendered subjectivity. In this way she may contribute both to the change and the maintenance of stereotypes of what is considered male or female in the culture.

Dorte Marie Søndergaard: Gender in Mediating Processes between Culture and Person

The article is based on a sociocultural psychological approach. Gender is seen as one of many structuring principles in mediating processes between culture and person. A variety of analytical perspectives and analytical tools are suggested. The perspectives and tools answer the purpose of analysis of empirical data when the context specific meaning of gender is to be studied. It is suggested that one looks for traits of meaning and practices that constitute specific social identities, i.e. gender. The constituting traits might be gathered through the idea of matrixes and abstract figures, and the flexible character of constituents, matrixes and abstract figures is discussed by means of the concept of negotiation. Finally it is suggested that one looks out for cultural codes. It is by means of these analytical approaches the intention to move the understanding of gender within empirical analysis beyond »the metaphor of possession« (Wertsch, 1991).

Kirsten Thue Skinhøj: Sex Differences in Alcohol and Drug Cultures among Adolescence

The topic of this paper is sex differences in the significance and regulation of intoxicants in »ordinary« youth groups' consumption of alcohol and hashish.

Recent Danish research on young people's use of intoxicants focuses on the scope and nature of such consumption, but so far no research has been carried out based on a cultural-analytical paradigm.

During analyses of qualitative data in a research project about »Fraternization Rituals and Alcohol and Drug Cultures among Youth in Denmark« based on a cultural-analytical paradigm the author describes some sex differences in alcohol and drug cultures among »ordinary« youth groups. Taking the early results in Nordic women studies as her starting point the author tries to understand and explain the above mentioned differences between the young women and men.

Pia Skogemann: The Daughter-archetype

The subject of the paper is a critical discussion and revision of four gendered concepts in analytical psychology (animus/anima; Logos/Eros, thinking/feeling, patriarchal/matriarchal consciousness). The critique stems from a pointing out the error that the »knowledge« of certain masculine and feminine qualities becomes a common denominator resulting in a confusion of theoretical levels. The concepts can be freed from this and function in a more open way as instruments on the different theoretical levels. Following this revision, the theory is expanded with a new concept »the daughter archetype«, which denotes the establishment and development of women's identity and plays an important role in the individuation process. This is seen as functional and phenomenological different from the motherarchetype, but is not, however, defined by certain psychological qualities. Finally, aspects of the transference-countertransference pattern related to the phenomenology of the daughter-archetype is discussed.

Liv Mette Gulbrandsen: Amongst Horses and Gorillas in the Schoolyard

This article is based upon an empirical study where Norwegian 8 - 9 years old girls and boys were interviewed on their activities and relations. The children were asked to tell about the events of »yesterday«. A cultural psychological perspective on human development constitutes the point of departure for analyzing gendered, cultural codes as they can be understood in the children's stories from classrooms and schoolyards. The psychological development of girls and boys may be seen as an active integration into established meaningsystems, including the competence to negotiate cultural codes. The gendered codes of actions seem to be more accessible to change than relational codes which, among other things, leave social responsibility for cross-gender relations to girls primary. The accessibility to analysis and negotiations of gendered codes of actions and of relations respectively is discussed.

Hanne Haavind: Negotiating sexuality and power in the therapeutic encounter.

How to understand the consequences when psychotherapists are involving their clients in sexual behavior. The concepts of transference and countertransference cannot count for the fact that most involved therapists are men, and most involved clients are women. Better modes of understanding are developed by comparing the frame for interpretations of acts in the relationship between therapist and client with the frame for interpretations of acts in heterosexual relationships. By oscillating between the two frames of interpretation the male therapist is both concealing and increasing his power, and correspondingly the possibilities for development are limited in the female client. This is a serious form of maltreatment not just because sex is given as a substitute for treatment and cure, but also because she is falsely diagnosed as psychologically vulnerable and unreliable. The abuse is the betrayal of her subjectivity created through his efforts to protect himself from detection and professional degradation.

Anne-Kathrine Broch-Due & Tone Ødegård: Pleasure and Destruction

For the individual, sexuality represents a basic physical and social need. In its ideal form this is realized in mutual expression of subjectivity. In its worst form however, at the very least one individual becomes a victim. Therefore sexuality may, on one hand, represent the ideal frame for a social confirmation of belonging and respect for individual boundaries and needs. On the other hand, there is a potential opposite: Sexuality may be used as an abusive weapon that invades the individual, destroying her/his dignity, leading to social rejection and in extreme cases even to suicide. Thought in Western culture is imbued with dichotomies that partition phenomena. The two sides of the dichotomy are mutually exclusive and that side of the dichotomy that is ascribed to abstract masculinity takes precedence over that which is attributed to abstract femininity. The mind/body-dichotomy has particularly influenced our understanding of sexuality and eroticism. In our culture it would appear that it is generally more important to protect people's unhealthy vulnerabilities, than to activate the deepest positive forces in their life. The mind/body-dualism may protect mens vulnerability in various ways of living out their sexuality, including violence, but it does not provide the same protection for women. Sexuality is a biological phenomena which has been given a cultural expression. This article focuses on how the cultural manifestations of sexuality are expressions of a masculine way of thinking (ideology/myths/ fantasy) about sexuality. The many cultural and symbolic expressions of sexuality and eroticism present a picture full of paradoxes and antagonisms. In this article we will analyze sexuality and eroticism against the background of power and schisms.

Kirsten Benum & Anne-Kari Clasen: Between Silence and Danger

The article describes an understanding of psychological problems that include the knowledge of power structures in the gender system. Psychological symptoms are seen as a source of information to tabooed conflicts of interest and experiences with power abuse. Therapeutical change implies the creation of new meaning based on dignity by fighting the process of making women's reactions pathological.