

## APC Podcast 1.2: Janet Jakobsen on What's Left of Queer Theory Now?

### Key terms & concepts

**normativity:** Concept denoting the assertion of judgments that act as prescriptions of what ought and ought not to be the case. Normativity can manifest itself directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly. Laws that allow only a man and a woman to marry but not two people of the same sex set up the notion that a man–woman marriage is the norm. Normativity functions to regulate societies regarding what is and what is not accepted. Its operations are often invisible because the norms it articulates become naturalized so that it is difficult to question them.<sup>1</sup>

**critique of normativity or normcriticality:** Theoretical and methodological feminist framework developed particularly in the Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Denmark) as a way of engaging critically with the norms or rules (direct, indirect, explicit, implicit) and power structures that govern a given society. The point is both to make these norms explicit, to understand how they affect people's everyday lives, and to challenge them through that engagement.<sup>2</sup>

**affect:** A term that entered the feminist lexicon in the 2000s to refer to feelings, emotions, and emotional reactions as part of the psychosocial processes that effect people's lives and interactions. This interest in affect, as opposed to rationality for example, has resulted in Affect Studies as a new area of enquiry where feelings and experiences such as shame, blame, depression, or anger are explored as structuring devices in everyday life. Significantly, many of the emotions explored are negative, are constructed as oppressive, and are regarded as a source of disempowerment, particularly for women and those who are denigrated, for example because of their colour or ethnic identity.  
ability

**disability:** a loss or restriction of functional ability or activity as a result of impairment of the body or mind. Social approaches to disability emphasize the effects that society collectively has in disabling people and denying opportunities, thereby extending beyond the medical condition or diagnostic label<sup>3</sup>

**crip theory:** A strand of critical cultural analysis that, alongside 'queer perspectives and practices', has 'been deployed to resist the contemporary spectacle of able-bodied heteronormativity', as Robert McCruer (Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability, 2006) puts it. Dominant conceptions of able-bodiedness in sport are vulnerable to critique in the sense that they have often matter-of-factly assumed the ideal body to be the platform for and pinnacle of sporting excellence. The term 'crip' emerged in disability movements, as an adaptation and reworking of the derogatory word 'cripple'; as McCruer states, the term's 'positive valences are...multiple'. Crip theory and practice entails sustained forms of coming out, and the recognition that another, more accessible world is possible in which disability is no longer the raw material against which imagined and sometimes liberationist worlds are formed. Crip theory has its own radical and critical agenda, draws much upon personalized narratives, and has generated illuminating readings of films and other popular cultural forms.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Griffin, G. normativity. In (Ed.), A Dictionary of Gender Studies. : Oxford University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Griffin, G. normcriticality. In (Ed.), A Dictionary of Gender Studies. : Oxford University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Martin, E. (2015). disability. In (Ed.), Concise Medical Dictionary. : Oxford University Press.

<sup>4</sup> Tomlinson, A. (2010). crip theory. In (Ed.), A Dictionary of Sports Studies. : Oxford University Press

**social movement:** Collective attempts to bring about or resist social change that emerge and operate mainly outside institutionalized political processes—although they themselves may be highly organized.<sup>5</sup>

Sarah Ahmed

- [Queer phenomenology](#)
- [The cultural politics of emotion](#)
- [Strange encounters : embodied others in post-coloniality](#)
- [Differences that matter : feminist theory and postmodernism](#)
- Ahmed's Blog "FeministKillJoys": <https://feministkilljoys.com/about/>

Laura Berlant

- [The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture](#)
- [Interview with Laura Berlant on queer entanglements, affect and optimism.](#)

Jose Esteban Munoz

- [Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity](#)
- [Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics](#)

Work on transnational labor and feminism (and the fight for taking domestic labor seriously)

- [Transnational activism, global labor governance, and China by Sabrina Zajak](#)
- [The labor movement by Charlotte Perkins Stetson](#)
- [Making Feminist Politics: Transnational Alliances between Women and Labor by Suzanne Franzway and Mary Margaret Fonow.](#)

**Womanist studies/womanism:** A term coined by Black American feminists such as Alice Walker to denote Black women's specific potentialities and relationships with each other in a context where feminism as dominated by white women did not address Black women's needs adequately.<sup>6</sup>

Also see [BYP 100's "Why Black Feminism & Womanism?" Guide](#)

---

<sup>5</sup> [Oxford Reference](#). Ed. Calhoun, Craig. January 01, 2002. Oxford University Press

<sup>6</sup> Griffin, G. womanism. In (Ed.), [A Dictionary of Gender Studies](#). : Oxford University Press