

Denver Law Review

Volume 75
Issue 4 *Symposium - InterSEXionality:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Queering
Legal Theory*

Article 2

January 2021

Editor's Note

Karla C. Robertson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/dlr>

Recommended Citation

Karla C. Robertson, Editor's Note, 75 Denv. U. L. Rev. 1129 (1998).

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu, dig-commons@du.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

InterSEXionality, the topic of this Fourth Annual Legal Theory Symposium at the University of Denver College of Law, evokes a number of important themes. First, the methodology developed by intersectionality theorists lends itself to application in sexual orientation contexts. Second, working at the crossroads of queer theory and law offers both promise and peril, for it entails applying insights directed at deconstructing sexual identity to a legal analysis that is fundamentally based on identity categories. Third, interSEXionality may elucidate interrelationships among seemingly separate identity categories, such as gender, sex, sexuality, race, class, and sexual orientation. In particular, it questions whether gender subsumes sexual orientation, or vice versa. Exploring these intersections could be described as “queering legal theory.”

The interdisciplinary approach taken in this volume includes anthropological, historical, literary, and political science, as well as legal perspectives on sexual orientation theory. Four channels of inquiry organized the symposium: *Constructing Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation*; *Constructing Heterosexuality*; *Constructing Marginality*; and *Toward InterSEXionality*. The issues raised include who is included (and excluded) in constructions of sex, gender, and sexual orientation, and whether minority sexual orientation and gender identities undermine or buttress the compulsory heterosexuality regime. Additional themes emerge concerning the role of capitalism in constructing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities and strategies, and the difficulty of alleviating penalties for feminine behavior without perpetuating traditional gender roles. Julie Nice sets the tone by summarizing the contributions' strategic implications for an antisubordination agenda, while Frank Valdes wraps it up by situating the symposium within the larger discourse of sexual orientation legal theory scholarship and activism.

The *Law Review* thanks the University of Denver College of Law for its unflagging support of the annual legal theory symposium, the Hughes Research and Development Committee for its financial support, the InterSEXionality Symposium participants who brought originality and energy to the discussions, and the faculty of the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver for their invaluable participation in the symposium process. I would especially like to thank University of Denver College of Law Professors Nancy Ehrenreich and Martha Ertman for working so closely with me during the symposium planning; their organizational and intellectual prowess was integral to this symposium's success. Last, but surely not least, I thank Kent Modesitt, the Editor-in-Chief of the 1998-99 *Law Review*, who went above and beyond the call of duty in assisting with the publication of this issue.

Karla C. Robertson,
1997-98 Symposium Editor

