

The book was found

Disidentifications: Queers Of Color And The Performance Of Politics (Cultural Studies Of The Americas)



Synopsis

There is more to identity than identifying with one's culture or standing solidly against it. José Esteban Muñoz looks at how those outside the racial and sexual mainstream negotiate majority culture—not by aligning themselves with or against exclusionary works but rather by transforming these works for their own cultural purposes. Muñoz calls this process "disidentification," and through a study of its workings, he develops a new perspective on minority performance, survival, and activism. Disidentifications is also something of a performance in its own right, an attempt to fashion a queer world by working on, with, and against dominant ideology. By examining the process of identification in the work of filmmakers, performance artists, ethnographers, Cuban choteo, forms of gay male mass culture (such as pornography), museums, art photography, camp and drag, and television, Muñoz persistently points to the intersecting and short-circuiting of identities and desires that result from misalignments with the cultural and ideological mainstream in contemporary urban America. Muñoz calls attention to the world-making properties found in performances by queers of color—in Carmelita Tropicana's "Camp/Choteo" style politics, Marga Gomez's performances of queer childhood, Vaginal Creme Davis's "Terrorist Drag," Isaac Julien's critical melancholia, Jean-Michel Basquiat's disidentification with Andy Warhol and pop art, Felix Gonzalez-Torres's performances of "disidentity," and the political performance of Pedro Zamora, a person with AIDS, within the otherwise artificial environment of the MTV serial *The Real World*.

Book Information

Series: Cultural Studies of the Americas (Book 2)

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (May 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816630151

ISBN-13: 978-0816630158

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #173,979 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #214 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian #286 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction #435 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific

Customer Reviews

Whether you're a gender studies student or just interested in learning more about queer theory, I really recommend *Disidentifications*. To get the most out of Munoz' text, I suggest reading about Julie Kristeva's concepts of abjection. This will help you better understand the concept of disidentification, which can be initially very confusing and elusive within the beginning pages of the book. If you're stuck looking for a clear definition in the book's introduction, don't feel frustrated! Keep reading, as I think Munoz deliberately avoids laying out his concept in broad daylight. The book is a welcomed relief from dense and confusing theory alla Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Michel Foucault and Gayle Rubin. Munoz writes clearly and not in the confusing manner that some academics use. This doesn't mean his ideas are simple - they are anything but! Sometimes it's easy to be frustrated with queer theory texts because they don't always provide solutions for the problems they talk about. However, this book has lots of potential for real-life application in the queer community. Most optimistically, disidentification can save lives and be an agent of cultural change. Speaking from an American perspective, our culture is becoming more accepting, but there are some places or environments that are still very hostile towards queer bodies and people. Drawing from intersectionality, cross-identification and abjection, Munoz outlines disidentifications as a political and survival especially useful for queers of color, or queers with multiple minoritized identities (i.e. poor and trans and gay). Finally, people dissatisfied with the mainstream LGBTQ movement and its assimilation-like tactics may also find this book useful and/or relevant.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Disidentifications: Queers Of Color And The Performance Of Politics (Cultural Studies of the Americas) *Ecuador and the United States: Useful Strangers* (United States and the Americas) (United States and the Americas) (The United States and the Americas) *Couture and Consensus: Fashion and Politics in Postcolonial Argentina* (Cultural Studies of the Americas) *Media and Cultural Studies* (KeyWorks in Cultural Studies) *Paraguayan War: Armies of the Nineteenth Century: The Americas* (Armies of the 19th Century: The Americas) *Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation: Literature and Cultural Politics in Yugoslavia* (Cultural Memory in the Present) *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Politics: Transmedia World-Building Beyond Capitalism* (Radical Cultural Studies) *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* (Indigenous Americas) *Governing Sound: The Cultural Politics of Trinidad's Carnival Musics* (Chicago Studies in Ethnomusicology) *Identity, Social Activism, and the Pursuit of Higher Education: The Journey Stories of*

Undocumented and Unafraid Community Activists (Critical Studies of Latinos/as in the Americas)
Post-Colonial Trinidad: An Ethnographic Journal (Studies of the Americas) Imagining Asia in the
Americas (Asian American Studies Today) Who Owns the Past? Cultural Policy, Cultural Property,
and the Law (The Public Life of the Arts) Edinburgh: A Cultural History (Interlink Cultural Histories)
(Cities of the Imagination) Commodity Activism: Cultural Resistance in Neoliberal Times (Critical
Cultural Communication) Religion and the Specter of the West: Sikhism, India, Postcoloniality, and
the Politics of Translation (Insurrections: Critical Studies in Religion, Politics, and Culture) Oman:
Politics and Society in the Qaboos State (The Ceri / Sciences Po Series in Comparative Politics and
International Studies) Autocracy and Redistribution: The Politics of Land Reform (Cambridge
Studies in Comparative Politics) Performance Anxiety Cure: How To Overcome Performance
Anxiety And Stage Fright In All Aspects Of Life Forever (anxiety recovery, panic attacks, anxiety
management, anxiety attacks) Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom
Culture in Detroit (Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance)

[Dmca](#)