

# Preface: Affective Academic Subjects

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The year 2007 was a turbulent one for many of us who are active in making the *SQS Journal*. Consequently, this has affected the publishing process of the journal, which is still making its debut. We hope that this delay has not drastically lowered the trust our readers have towards the journal.

We are not making excuses, but academics really are human beings, too. We give birth, break up and fall in love; we burn out and change jobs. We start new hobbies and move abroad in order to learn more about ourselves. Our children become ill, we become ill ourselves, our loved ones die, and sometimes we yearn for forgetting and leaving everything behind. On occasion we do actually get an excellent thesis or dissertation finished. We do attend various and diverse projects, innovate novel thoughts and ideas, but these ideas do not come into being separately from the petty little details of our lives any more than they can be separate from the frightening and life-altering changes that we inevitably experience from time to time.

Queer theory is not just a collection of ideas, but also something that is profoundly linked to the personal, affective experiences of the scholars whose theoretical orientation or preference is queer. The potency of queer studies lies in

their ability to depict personal experiences and affections alongside cultural representations which do not necessarily have a position in hegemonic or normative ideologies. Personal experiences have a strong effect on the research work of all of us as academic subjects. They do not only affect the choice of subject matter, but also the choice of methodologies and theoretical points of departure. This is apparent in all research that applies queer theory, but in the articles, reports and essays written for this *SQS* issue it is probably even more explicit than usual.

The theme for this first issue of the year 2007 involves time, rainbow families and queer politics. Both time and family are certainly most personal and most affective topics.

The theme issue was edited by a guest editor Paula Kuosmanen. She presents the theme in her introduction “Johdanto: Sateenkaariperheet, julkinen tila ja queer-politiikka Suomessa” (Introduction: Rainbow Families, Public Space and Queer Politics in Finland). In her article “Aion, Kronos and Kairos: On Judith Butler’s Temporality” Kattis Honkanen studies the meanings of temporality in Judith Butler’s theorization and places a theoretical background for contemplating the concept of time. Anna Moring’s article: “Kolmen kerroksen vanhempia? Hetero- ja parisuhdenor-

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mativisuuksia Suomen ja Ruotsin hedelmöityshoitolaissa” (Parents in Three Floors: Heteronormativity and Relationship Normativities in the Insemination Laws of Finland and Sweden) tackles the discourses and representations of family and parenthood ideals constructed in Finnish and Swedish insemination laws. In her report, “Naisparit ja itselliset naiset yhteiskuntajärjestyksen ylläpitäjinä – hedelmöityslakikeskustelusta vuosina 2005–2006” (Female Couples and Self-Supported Women as Maintainers of the Social Structure – on the Discussion around Insemination Laws in 2005–2006), Elina Vaahtera explores the debate concerning Finnish insemination laws. Annukka Lahti, in her article “‘Ihan samanlaisia ku muutki ihmiset’ – binaisten ja kumppanien parisuhteen tuottamisen strategiat” (Just Like Everybody Else – Strategies in Producing Relationships of Bisexual Women and Their Partners), analyses normativities in the relationships of women who identify themselves as bisexual. Juulia Jyränki, Jenny Kangasvuo, Helena Jokila and Antu Sorainen present a round table discussion, “Intiimiyden uudet normit: Monisuhteisuus haastaa uskunniallisuuden?” (New Norms of Intimacy: Polyrelationships Challenging Neopurity), on the changes in the marriage laws and the possibilities of contesting the norm of monogamy.

Pia Livia Hekanaho discusses the problematics of relationship normativities in her thought provoking essay “Pervoai-ka ja ongelmallinen parisuhtenormatiivisuus” (Queer Time and Problematics of Relationship Normativity). She tackles the concept of queer time through the ideas of Judith Halberstam, who visited Finland and Sweden in 2007, and Lee

Edelman, who was the guest lecturer for the project Porn Academy in the spring 2006. Mia Liinason writes in her report “Grand Narratives and Other Narratives in Queer Studies of Today” of a Ph.D. course held at the University of Lund, Sweden in the spring 2007. The course, in which Professor Halberstam was one of the lecturers, introduced new perspectives of queer theory. This issue also presents two lectio praecursoria authored by Dr. Pia Livia Hekanaho and Dr. Rita Paqvalen, and a number of book reviews written in Finnish and Swedish.

We are also happy to present the works of a contemporary Swedish photographer Elisabeth Ohlson Wallin in the gallery section of this issue. Ohlson Wallin’s works have been highly influential in the Nordic countries, and they have affected thoughts and ideas, maybe even ideals, of the queer or rainbow families. Paula Kuosmanen makes her analysis of Ohlson Wallin’s pictures positioned in a particular time and place; in the context of the articles, reports and essays discussing family and temporality, written for *SQS Journal* anno domini [sic] 2007.

The editors of *SQS Journal* would like to thank the previous layout designer of the journal, Anne Aurasmaa, whose design is used in this issue and present our gratitude to the new layout designer Terhi Repo. The guest editor and we would also like to thank the anonymous referee commentators and Eliza Steinbock, Deborah Froome and all the others who have helped in the editing and proofreading process of this issue.