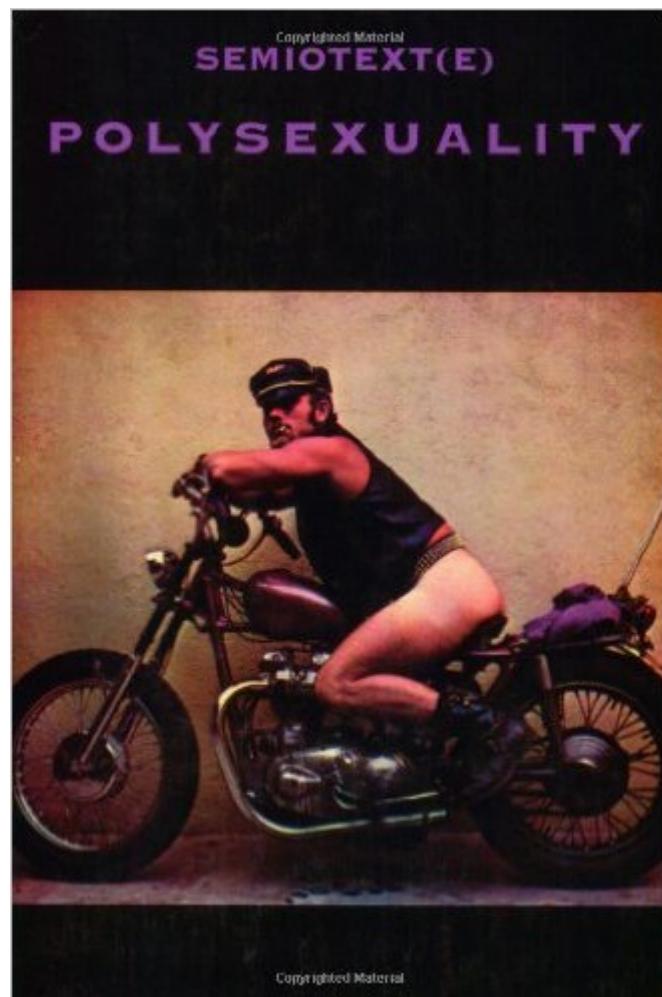


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# Polysexuality



## Synopsis

Originally conceived as a special Semiotext(e) issue on homosexuality at the end of the 70s, "Polysexuality" quickly evolved into a more complex and iconoclastic project whose intent was to do away with recognized genders altogether, considered far too limitative. The project landed somewhere between humor, anarchy, science-fiction, utopia and apocalypse. In the few years that it took to put it together, it also evolved from a joyous schizo concept to a darker, neo-Lacanian elaboration on the impossibility of sexuality. The tension between the two, occasionally perceptible, is the theoretical subtext of the issue. Upping the ante on gender distinctions, "Polysexuality" started by blowing wide open all sexual classifications, inventing unheard-of categories, regrouping singular features into often original configurations, like Corporate Sex, Alimentary Sex, Soft or Violent Sex, Discursive Sex, Self- Sex, Animal Sex, Child Sex, Morbid Sex, or Sex of the Gaze. Mixing documents, interviews, fiction, theory, poetry, psychiatry and anthropology, "Polysexuality" became the encyclopedia sexualis of a continent that is still emerging. What it displayed in all its forms could be called, broadly speaking, the Sexuality of Capital. (Actually the issue being rather hot, it was decided to cool it off somewhat by only using "capitals" throughout the issue. It was also the first issue for which we used the computer). The "Polysexuality" issue was attacked in Congress for its alleged advocation of animal sex. Includes work by Alain Robbe-Grillet, Félix Guattari, Paul Verlaine, William S. Burroughs, Georges Bataille, Pierre Klossowski, Roland Barthes, Paul Virilio, Peter Lamborn Wilson, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Polysexuality is a very valuable source-book for anyone interested in sexual politics. It provides a major sampling of different interpretive approaches to sexuality. The work, while endowed with a table of contents and sections on specific subjects like "Ambiguous Sex," Corporate Sex," and the like, very often presents text in a double column on the page, and in many other forms of textual presentation (intereviews, dialogues, etc). This is because, given the pastiche element of the produced volume, the editor made the paradoxically lucid decision of making the physical text less reader friendly-- not to the point of making it unreadable, however. Since the editors' basic argument is to expose the multifaceted elements of the concept of "sex" (mostly referring to the act of sex), the concessional change in format is meant to reflect the work's content and also articulate the limits of a compendium of this sort: that it can only give a snapshot of the very protean concept of sex itself. As a resource, I can't praise the work enough. The text provides theory excerpts from major critical thinkers such as Guattari, Deleuze, Bataille, Lyotard, Lacan, and Barthes. It also showcases the work of lesser-known, and in some cases more taboo, theorists such as Guy Hocquenghem, John Preston, and Tony Duvert. The text is not limited strictly to theory and samples the thoughts of fiction writers like Paul Verlaine, Rimbaud, Robbe-Grillet, William Burroughs, and Pierre Guotat. Like the majority of the works published by Semiotext(e), Polysexuality is a collection that is just as enlightening as it is anarchic and transgressive.

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