
Intimacies Leo Bersani

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Leo Bersani State University of
New York Press

Leo Bersani, known for his
provocative interrogations of
psychoanalysis, sexuality, and the

human body, centers his latest book on a surprisingly simple image: a newborn baby simultaneously crying out and drawing its first breath. These twin ideas—absorption and expulsion, the intake of physical and emotional nourishment and the exhalation of breath—form the backbone of *Receptive Bodies*, a thoughtful new essay collection. These titular bodies range from fetuses in utero to fully eroticized adults, all the way to celestial giants

floating in space. Bersani illustrates his exploration of the body's capacities to receive and resist what is ostensibly alien using a typically eclectic set of sources, from literary icons like Marquis de Sade to cinematic provocateurs such as Bruno Dumont and Lars von Trier. This sharp and wide-ranging book will excite scholars of Freud, Foucault, and film studies, or anyone who has ever stopped to ponder the give and take of human corporeality.

Leo Bersani Routledge

Has a repressive morality been the primary contribution of Christianity to the history of sexuality? The ascetic concerns that pervade ancient Christian texts would seem to support such a common assumption. Focusing on hagiographical literature, Virginia Burrus pursues a fresh path of interpretation, arguing that the early accounts of the lives of saints are not antierotic but rather convey a sublimely transgressive "countereroticism" that resists

the marital, procreative ethic of sexuality found in other strands of Christian tradition. Without reducing the erotics of ancient hagiography to a single formula, *The Sex Lives of Saints* frames the broad historical, theological, and theoretical issues at stake in such a revisionist interpretation of ascetic eroticism, with particular reference to the work of Michel Foucault and Georges Bataille, David Halperin and Geoffrey Harpham, Leo Bersani and Jean Baudrillard. Burrus subsequently proceeds through close, performative readings of the earliest *Lives of Saints*, mostly dating to the late fourth and early fifth centuries—Jerome's *Lives of Paul, Malchus, Hilarion, and Paula*; Gregory of Nyssa's *Life of Macrina*; Augustine's portrait of Monica; Sulpicius Severus's *Life of Martin*; and the slightly later *Lives of so-called harlot saints*. Queer, s/m,

and postcolonial theories are among the contemporary discourses that prove intriguingly resonant with an ancient art of "saintly" loving that remains, in Burrus's reading, promisingly mobile, diverse, and open-ended. *Caravaggio's Secrets* Columbia University Press

Scenes of Intimacy analyzes the representation of acts and relationships of intimacy in contemporary literature, the effect this has upon readers, and the ways these representations resonate with, complement, and challenge the concerns of contemporary theory. Opening with an in-depth interview with literary critic, Derridean, and novelist Professor Nicholas Royle, the volume contains eleven

further essays that move from intimate scenes of familial and pedagogic legacy, on to representations of love, of sex, and finally to scenes of death and dying. The essays are textually attentive to how literary techniques create intimacy, and draw upon new and notable theoretical positions and critics from queer theory, affect studies, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism and deconstruction to ask difficult and uncomfortable questions about intimacy and its representation. Across the genres of poetry, autobiography, journals, love letters, short stories and novels, *Scenes of Intimacy* shows that contemporary literature poses new

possibilities and questions about our intimate relationalities, their failures and their futures.

MIT Press

The first book-length study of Bersani's work, tracing the unfolding of his onto-ethics/aesthetics amidst numerous literary, artistic, and philosophical influences. Since his first publications in the late 1950s, Leo Bersani's work has influenced numerous scholarly fields, from studies of French modernism and realist fiction to psychoanalytic criticism and film theory. It has occasionally helped precipitate the emergence of new disciplinary fields, such as queer theory in the late 1980s. *The Essentialist Villain* is the first book-length study of this impressively rich oeuvre. Mikko Tuhkanen tracks the unfolding of Bersani's onto-ethics/aesthetics, paying

particular attention to his persistent references to "essence," a concept central to classical speculative philosophy, which has fallen into distinct disfavor since the emergence of deconstructive thought. Because of his early influences—particularly Gilles Deleuze's philosophy—Bersani remains an ontologist through decades when deconstruction seems to have all but disallowed any thought of being. Tuhkanen also locates Bersani's thought amidst numerous literary, artistic, and philosophical interlocutors, including Deleuze, Freud, Proust, Laplanche, Beckett, Baudelaire, Genet, Leibniz, and others. Mikko Tuhkanen is Associate Professor of English at Texas A&M University. His books include *Leo Bersani: Queer Theory and Beyond*; *Queer Times, Queer Becomings* (coedited with E. L. McCallum); and *The*

American Optic:
Psychoanalysis, Critical Race
Theory, and Richard Wright,
all published by SUNY Press.
The Freudian Body
Intimacies
Bold and inventive in
style, *City of Night* is the
groundbreaking 1960s
novel about male
prostitution. Rechy is
unflinching in his
portrayal of one hustling
'youngman' and his
search for self-
knowledge among the
other denizens of his
neon-lit world. As the
narrator moves from
Texas to Times Square
and then on to the
French Quarter of New
Orleans, Rechy delivers
a portrait of the edges of
America that has lost
none of its power. On his
travels, the nameless
narrator meets a
collection of
unforgettable characters,

from vice cops to guilt-
ridden married men eaten
up by desire, to Lance
O'Hara, once Hollywood's
biggest star. Rechy
describes this world with
candour and
understanding in a prose
that is highly personal
and vividly descriptive.
Intimacies University of
Chicago Press
From the UK 's foremost
literary psychoanalyst, a
dazzling new book on the
universal urge to change
our lives. We live in a
world in which we are
invited to change—to
become our best selves
through politics, or
fitness, or diet, or
therapy. We change all
the time—growing older
and older—and how we
think about change
changes over time too.
We want to think of our
lives as progress
myths—as narratives of

positive personal growth—at the same time as we inevitably age and suffer setbacks. Adam Phillips' s sparkling book *On Wanting to Change* explores the stories we tell about change, and the changes we actually make—and the fact that they don' t always go, or come, together.

Are the Lips a Grave?

GRIN Verlag

Being sane has long been defined simply as that bland and nebulous state of not being mentally ill. While writings on madness fill entire libraries, until now no one has thought to engage exclusively with the idea of sanity. In a society governed by indulgence and excess, madness is the state of mind we identify with

most keenly. Though ultimately destructive, it is often credited as the wellspring of genius, individuality, and self-expression. Sanity, on the other hand, confounds us. One of the world's most respected psychoanalysts and original thinkers, Adam Phillips redresses this historical imbalance. He strips our lives back to essentials, focusing on how we—as human beings, parents, lovers, as people to whom work matters—can make space for a sane and well-balanced attitude to living. In a world saturated by tales of dysfunction and suffering, he offers a way forward that is as down-to-earth and

realistic as it is uplifting and hopeful.

Is the Rectum a Grave?
Routledge

The Decision Between Us combines an inventive reading of Jean-Luc Nancy with queer theoretical concerns to argue that while scenes of intimacy are spaces of sharing, they are also spaces of separation. John Paul Ricco shows that this tension informs our efforts to coexist ethically and politically, an experience of sharing and separation that informs any decision. Using this incongruous relation of intimate separation, Ricco goes on to propose that “decision” is as much an aesthetic as it is an ethical construct, and one that is always defined in terms of our relations to loss, absence, departure, and death. Laying out this theory of “unbecoming community” in modern and contemporary art, literature, and philosophy, and calling our attention to such things as blank sheets of paper, images of unmade beds, and the spaces around bodies, The Decision Between Us opens in 1953, when Robert Rauschenberg famously erased a drawing by Willem de Kooning, and Roland Barthes published Writing Degree Zero, then moves to 1980 and the “neutral mourning” of Barthes’ Camera Lucida, and ends in the early 1990s with installations by Felix Gonzalez-Torres. Offering surprising new considerations of these and other seminal works

of art and theory by Jean Genet, Marguerite Duras, and Catherine Breillat, *The Decision Between Us* is a highly original and unusually imaginative exploration of the spaces between us, arousing and evoking an infinite and profound sense of sharing in scenes of passionate, erotic pleasure as well as deep loss and mourning. The representation of intimacy and sexuality in the paintings of François Boucher

Columbia University Press

Two gifted and highly prolific intellectuals, Leo Bersani and Adam Phillips, here present a fascinating dialogue about the problems and possibilities of human intimacy. Their conversation takes as

its point of departure psychoanalysis and its central importance to the modern imagination—though equally important is their shared sense that by misleading us about the importance of self-knowledge and the danger of narcissism, psychoanalysis has failed to realize its most exciting and innovative relational potential. In pursuit of new forms of intimacy they take up a range of concerns across a variety of contexts. To test the hypothesis that the essence of the analytic exchange is intimate talk without sex, they compare Patrice Leconte's film about an accountant mistaken for a

psychoanalyst, *Intimate and a recognition of Strangers*, with Henry one ' s non-James ' s classic novella psychological potential *The Beast in the* self in others. This Jungle. A discussion of revolutionary way of the radical practice of b relating to the world, are backing—unprotected they contend, could anal sex between gay lead to a new human men—delineates an freedom by mitigating intimacy that rejects the horrifying violence the personal. Even we blithely accept as serial killer Jeffrey part of human nature. Dahmer and the Bush Charmingly persuasive administration ' s war on and daringly terror enter the scene provocative, *Intimacies* as the conversation is a rare opportunity to turns to the way listen in on two brilliant aggression thrills and thinkers as they gratifies the ego. explore new ways of thinking about the human psyche. Finally, in a reading of *City of Night* Socrates ' theory of love from Plato ' s University of Chicago Phaedrus, Bersani and Press Phillips call for a new form of intimacy which Over the course of a they term “ impersonal distinguished career, narcissism ” : a critic Leo Bersani has divestiture of the ego tackled a range of

issues in his writing, and this collection gathers together some of his finest work. Beginning with one of the foundations of queer theory—his famous meditation on how sex leads to a shattering of the self, “Is the Rectum a Grave?”—this volume charts the inspired connections Bersani has made between sexuality, psychoanalysis, and aesthetics. Over the course of these essays, Bersani grapples with thinkers ranging from Plato to Descartes to Georg Simmel. Foucault and Freud recur as key figures, and although Foucault rejected psychoanalysis, Bersani contends that by

considering his ideas alongside Freud’s, one gains a clearer understanding of human identity and how we relate to one another. For Bersani, art represents a crucial guide for conceiving new ways of connecting to the world, and so, in many of these essays, he stresses the importance of aesthetics, analyzing works by Genet, Caravaggio, Proust, Almodóvar, and Godard. Documenting over two decades in the life of one of the best minds working in the humanities today, *Is the Rectum a Grave? and Other Essays* is a unique opportunity to explore the fruitful career of a formidable

intellect.
Sonic Agency
Manchester University
Press
In *Metroimperial
Intimacies* Victor
Román Mendoza
combines historical,
literary, and archival
analysis with queer-of-
color critique to show
how U.S. imperial
incursions into the
Philippines enabled the
growth of
unprecedented social
and sexual intimacies
between native
Philippine and U.S.
subjects. The real and
imagined
intimacies—whether
expressed through
friendship, love, or
eroticism—threatened
U.S. gender and
sexuality norms. To
codify U.S.

heteronormative
behavior, the colonial
government prohibited
anything loosely
defined as perverse,
which along with
popular representations
of Filipinos, regulated
colonial subjects and
depicted them as
sexually available,
diseased, and
degenerate. Mendoza
analyzes laws, military
records, the writing of
Philippine students in
the United States, and
popular representations
of Philippine colonial
subjects to show how
their lives, bodies, and
desires became the
very battleground for
the consolidation of
repressive legal,
economic, and political
institutions and
practices of the U.S.

colonial state. By highlighting the importance of racial and gendered violence in maintaining control at home and abroad, Mendoza demonstrates that studies of U.S. sexuality must take into account the reach and impact of U.S. imperialism.

On Wanting to Change

University of Pennsylvania Press
Printbegrænsninger: Der kan printes 10 sider ad gangen og max. 40 sider pr. session

Intimacies (16pt Large Print Edition) BRILL
A psychoanalytic reading of the homoerotic messages in the early portraits of Michelangelo Caravaggio explores the artist's attempts to move beyond such relations, his fascination with

imaginary secrets, and experiments with a new mode of connectedness in his paintings. Reprint. Queer Times, Queer Becomings A&C Black Intimacies University of Chicago Press
Transgender Psychoanalysis Cambridge University Press
Beyond Sexuality points contemporary sexual politics in a radically new direction. Combining a psychoanalytic emphasis on the unconscious with a deep respect for the historical variability of sexual identities, this original work of queer theory makes the case for viewing erotic desire as fundamentally

impersonal. Tim Dean develops a reading of Jacques Lacan that—rather than straightening out this notoriously difficult French psychoanalyst—brings out the queer tensions and productive incoherencies in his account of desire. Dean shows how the Lacanian unconscious "deheterosexualizes" desire, and along the way he reveals how psychoanalytic thinkers as well as queer theorists have failed to exploit the full potential of this conception of desire. The book elaborates this by investigating social fantasies about homosexuality and AIDS, including gay

men's own fantasies about sex and promiscuity, in an attempt to illuminate the challenges facing safe-sex education. Taking on many shibboleths in contemporary psychoanalysis and queer theory—and taking no prisoners—*Beyond Sexuality* offers an antidote to hagiographical strains in recent work on psychoanalysis, Foucault, and sexuality. *Thoughts and Things* University of Chicago Press Drawing on the author's clinical work with gender-variant patients, *Transgender Psychoanalysis: A Lacanian Perspective on Sexual Difference* argues

for a depathologizing of the transgender experience, while offering an original analysis of sexual difference. We are living in a "trans" moment that has become the next civil rights frontier. By unfixing our notions of gender, sex, and sexual identity, challenging normativity and essentialisms, trans modalities of embodiment can help reorient psychoanalytic practice. This book addresses sexual identity and sexuality by articulating new ideas on the complex relationship of the body to the psyche, the precariousness of gender, the instability of the male/female opposition, identity construction, uncertainties about sexual choice—in short, the conundrum of sexual difference. Transgender Psychoanalysis features explications of Lacanian psychoanalysis along with considerations on sex and gender in the form of

clinical vignettes from Patricia Gherovici's practice as a psychoanalyst. The book engages with popular culture and psychoanalytic literature (including Jacques Lacan's treatments of two transgender patients), and implements close readings uncovering a new ethics of sexual difference. These explorations have important implications not just for clinicians in psychoanalysis and mental health practitioners but also for transgender theorists and activists, transgender people, and professionals in the trans field. Transgender Psychoanalysis promises to enrich ongoing discourses on gender, sexuality, and identity. **Dating Beowulf**
University of Chicago Press
Bringing together a range of theoretical

and critical approaches, this edited collection is the first book to examine representations of the body in Eastern European and Russian cinema after the Second World War. Drawing on the history of the region, as well as Western and Eastern scholarship on the body, the book focuses on three areas: the traumatized body, the body as a site of erotic pleasure, and the relationship between the body and history. Critically dissecting the different ideological and aesthetic ways human bodies are framed, *The Cinematic Bodies of Eastern Europe and Russia* also demonstrates how bodily discourses oscillate between complicity and subversion, and how they shaped individuals and societies both during and after the period of state socialism.

Going Sane
Northwestern University Press
Queer theory essays on time and becoming in the fields of literature, philosophy, film, and performance.

Cotton's Queer Relations
Serpent's Tail
Oxford University Press published eminent literary critic Leo Bersani's first book, on Proust, in 1965, but the work has long been out of print. This new edition

comes in response to a recent renewal of interest among philosophers of literature, among others, and features a new preface from the author.

Radical Sex Between Men NYU Press

Essay from the year 2015 in the subject Sociology - Gender Studies, grade: 2,7, University College London, language: English, abstract: Leo Bersani, a renowned professor in the French Department at the University of California Berkley, is widely seen as a psychoanalytically engaged writer. In collaboration with his friend Adam Phillips, he wrote a dialogue and interview between the two of them called

Intimacies in 2008.

Bersani's book is as complex and interesting as one could expect. To put it in a nutshell, he accuses queer theorists not to live their lives like they want you to do it in their own writings. In the following paragraphs I will try to briefly explain what queer theory is about in order to make an analysis of Bersani's point of view about queer intellectuals.