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# Intimacies Leo Bersani

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*Cruising Utopia* State  
University of New York Press  
This work explores how  
barebackers think about  
transmitting HIV, especially  
the idea that deliberately  
sharing it establishes a new

network of kinship among the  
infected.

A Discussion of Leo Bersani's  
"Intimacies" and his Views on  
Queer Intellectuals State  
University of New York Press  
Queer theory essays on time and  
becoming in the fields of  
literature, philosophy, film, and  
performance.

*Marcel Proust* Columbia  
University Press  
The new edition of a  
prize-winning memoir-  
in-poems, a meditation  
on life as a queer

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Indigenous  
man-available for the  
first time in the  
United States "i am  
one of those hopeless  
romantics who wants  
every blowjob to be  
transformative." Billy-  
Ray Belcourt's debut  
poetry collection,  
This Wound Is a World,  
is "a prayer against  
breaking," writes  
trans Anishinaabe and  
Métis poet Gwen  
Benaway. "By way of an  
expansive poetic  
grace, Belcourt merges  
a soft beauty with the  
hardness of  
colonization to shape  
a love song that  
dances Indigenous  
bodies back into  
being. This book is  
what we've been  
waiting for." Part  
manifesto, part  
memoir, This Wound Is  
a World is an  
invitation to "cut a  
hole in the sky / to  
world inside."

Belcourt issues a call  
to turn to love and  
sex to understand how  
Indigenous peoples  
shoulder their sadness  
and pain without  
giving up on the  
future. His poems  
upset genre and play  
with form, scavenging  
for a decolonial kind  
of heaven where  
"everyone is at least  
a little gay."  
Presented here with  
several additional  
poems, this prize-  
winning collection  
pursues fresh  
directions for queer  
and decolonial theory  
as it opens uncharted  
paths for Indigenous  
poetry in North  
America. It is theory  
that sings, poetry  
that marshals  
experience in the  
service of a larger  
critique of the  
coloniality of the  
present and the  
tyranny of sexual and

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racial norms.

Metroimperial Intimacies

University of Chicago Press

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.

Beyond Sexuality SUNY Press

Leo Bersani's career spans more than 50 years, and extends across a wide spectrum of fields from French studies, modernism, realist fiction, and psychoanalytic criticism, to film theory and queer theory (a field Bersani could be said to have invented). In *Thoughts and Things* Bersani emerges as a thinker of ontology, aesthetics, and ethics, i.e., he emerges as a philosopher of the first order. In this elegant series of essays, he posits what would appear to be an irreducible gap between our thoughts (the human subject) and things (the world). His exemplary texts range from Jean Genet (*Our Lady of the*

*Flowers*) to Claire Denis (the French filmmaker whose masterpiece is *Beau Travail*). But he then asks whether a fissure of being between the subject and the world might simply be masking a more fundamental oneness, arguably a oneness intrinsic to our being in and with the world. He addresses the problem of formulating ways to consider the undivided mind, drawing on various sources from Descartes to cosmology, Sufi mysticism, and neo-Platonism. Cosmos and individual, past and present merge in the idea that our bodies contain atoms from stars that exploded millions of years ago: *res cogitans* and *res extensa*, for Bersani, are united in the oneness of cosmic being. This little book, in its sensitive treatment of films and literary texts, succeeds brilliantly in diagramming new forms as well as radical failures of connectedness. It is a new departure for Bersani, and will be devoured by his growing body of devoted readers." *Scenes of Intimacy* *Intimacies* Being sane has long been defined simply as that bland

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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.

Radical Sex Between Men Harvard University Press

A timely exploration of whether sound and listening can be the basis of political change. In a world dominated by the visual, could contemporary resistances be auditory? This timely and important book from Goldsmiths Press highlights sound's invisible, disruptive, and affective qualities and asks whether the unseen nature of sound can support a political transformation. In *Sonic Agency*, Brandon LaBelle sets out to engage contemporary social and political crises by way of sonic thought and imagination. He divides sound's functions into four figures of resistance—the invisible, the overheard, the itinerant, and the weak—and argues for their role in creating alternative “unlikely publics” in which to foster mutuality and dissent. He highlights existing sonic cultures and social initiatives that utilize or deploy sound and listening to address conflict, and points to their work as models for a wider movement. He considers issues of

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disappearance and hidden culture, nonviolence and noise, creole poetics, and networked life, aiming to unsettle traditional notions of the “space of appearance” as the condition for political action and survival. By examining the experience of listening and being heard, LaBelle illuminates a path from the fringes toward hope, citizenship, and vibrancy. In a current climate that has left many feeling they have lost their voices, it may be sound itself that restores it to them.

Transgender Psychoanalysis  
University of Pennsylvania  
Press

Kindness is the foundation of the world's great religions and most-enduring philosophies. Why, then, does being kind feel so dangerous? If we crave kindness with such intensity, why is it a pleasure we often deny ourselves? And why—despite our longing—are we often suspicious when we are on the receiving end of it? In this brilliant book, the eminent psychoanalyst Adam Phillips

and the historian Barbara Taylor examine the pleasures and perils of kindness. Modern people have been taught to perceive ourselves as fundamentally antagonistic to one another, our motives self-seeking. Drawing on intellectual history, literature, psychoanalysis, and contemporary social theory, this book explains how and why we have chosen loneliness over connection. On Kindness argues that a life lived in instinctive, sympathetic identification with others is the one we should allow ourselves to live. Bursting with often shocking insight, this brief and essential book will return to its readers what Marcus Aurelius declared was mankind's "greatest delight": the intense satisfactions of generosity and compassion.

The Essentialist Villain NYU  
Press

In Metroimperial Intimacies  
Victor Román Mendoza  
combines historical, literary,  
and archival analysis with

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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.

*This Wound Is a World* MIT Press

This bold book investigates how performance can transform the way people perceive trauma and memory, time and history. Jaclyn I. Pryor introduces the concept of "time slips," moments in which past, present, and future coincide, moments that challenge American narratives of racial and sexual citizenship. Framing performance

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as a site of resistance, Pryor analyzes their own work and that of four other queer artists—Ann Carlson, Mary Ellen Strom, Peggy Shaw, and Lisa Kron—between 2001 and 2016. Pryor illuminates how each artist deploys performance as a tool to render history visible, trauma recognizable, and transformation possible by laying bare the histories and ongoing systems of violence woven deep into our society. Pryor also includes a case study that examines the challenges of teaching queer time and queer performance within the academy in what Pryor calls a post-9/11 “homeland” security state. Masterfully synthesizing a wealth of research and experiences, *Time Slips* will interest scholars and readers in the fields of theater and performance studies, queer studies, and American studies.

Thoughts and Things

Edinburgh University Press

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

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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.

Leo Bersani Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Examines the importance of Leo Bersani ’ s work for queer theory, psychoanalysis, literary criticism and theory, cultural studies, and film studies. For more than fifty years, Leo Bersani ’ s writing has inspired and challenged scholars in the fields of literary criticism and theory, cultural studies, queer

theory, psychoanalysis, and film and visual studies. This is the first book-length collection on this important author. The book ’ s extensive introduction outlines in detail Bersani ’ s oeuvre, particularly its place in queer thought and his complicated relationships with the fields of queer theory and psychoanalysis. The subsequent contributions by notable scholars in various fields demonstrate the richness and open-endedness of his work.

The book concludes with a new interview with Bersani. Mikko Tuhkanen is Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies at Texas A&M University. He is the author of *The American Optic: Psychoanalysis, Critical Race Theory*, and Richard Wright and the coeditor (with E. L. McCallum) of *Queer Times, Queer Becomings*, both also published by SUNY Press. *Time Slips* A&C Black Essay from the year 2011 in the subject Art - History of Art,



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grade: 1,7, University of Essex (Art History), course: Art, Sex & Death in the 18th Century, language: English, abstract: François Boucher (1703-1770) has not been taken seriously by art historians for many years. It took them a while to discover his genius. Today he is one of the most important painters of the Rococo. In his paintings he covers themes like female grace and sexuality and transfers his protagonists into intimate and erotic settings. This essay is going to examine the ways in which Boucher does represent those themes of intimacy and sexuality in his paintings. To support the resulting arguments, specific examples of his works will be given. The essay concludes in a comparison to Boucher's most talented pupil, Jean-Honoré Fragonard and his famous painting 'The Swing'.

Are the Lips a Grave? Oxford University 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. Queer Times, Queer Becomings Seal Press Intimacies University of Chicago Press

Receptive Bodies Duke

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University Press

Over the course of a distinguished career, critic Leo Bersani has 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.

On Kindness  
Columbia 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

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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.

*Intimacies* GRIN Verlag  
Examines the importance of Leo Bersani's work for queer theory, psychoanalysis, literary criticism and theory, cultural studies, and film studies. For more than fifty years, Leo Bersani's writing has inspired and challenged scholars in the fields of literary criticism and theory, cultural studies, queer theory, psychoanalysis, and film and visual studies. This is the first book-length collection on this important author. The book's extensive introduction outlines in detail Bersani's oeuvre, particularly its place in queer thought and his complicated relationships with the fields of queer theory and psychoanalysis. The subsequent contributions by notable scholars in various fields demonstrate the richness and open-endedness of his work. The book concludes with a new interview with Bersani. *Leo Bersani* is filled with erudite, beautifully written, provocative

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essays that make abundantly clear not only the trajectory and importance of Bersani's work, but the many ideas that work enables. Elizabeth Freeman, author of *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories*—These stellar essays offer up important and unsettling insights into one of our most fearless thinkers. Thanks to this collection's extensive engagements with his body of knowledge, scholars are now able to approach Leo Bersani's prose in all of its shattering beauty in a dazzling new light. Scott Herring, author of *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism* *On Wanting to Change* University of Virginia Press This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. Featuring essays from some of the most prominent voices in early medieval studies, *Dating Beowulf* playfully redeploys the

word 'dating', which usually heralds some of the most divisive critical impasses in the field, to provocatively phrase a set of new relationships with an Old English poem. The volume argues for the relevance of the early Middle Ages to affect studies and vice-versa, offering a riposte to antifeminist discourse and opening avenues for future work by specialists in the history of emotions, literary theorists, students of Old English literature and medieval scholars alike. To this end, the essays embody a range of critical approaches from queer theory to animal studies and ecocriticism to actor-network theory. *The Decision Between Us* Manchester University 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

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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.