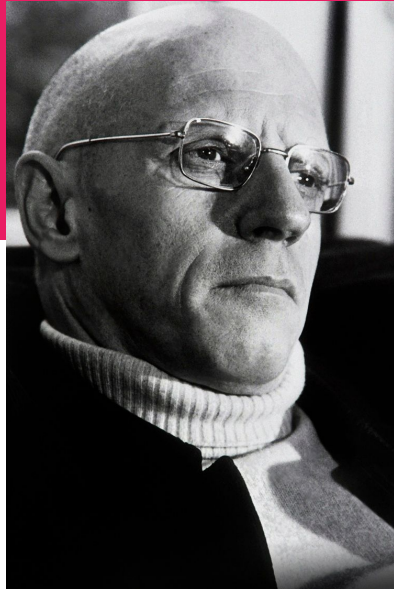
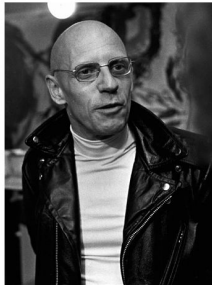


Michel Foucault

Identity



Steal his Look



Yves Saint Laurent
\$ 4,990



Our Legacy
\$ 140



Warby Parker
\$ 145



Bic
\$ 0.99

Michel Foucault

1926–1984



- Philosopher, intellectual historian, activist
- Power and Power/knowledge
- Archaeology
- French post-structuralist



The History of Sexuality

1978

- Proposed that sexuality is not something innate but rather constructed by external power structures and how we communicate ourselves to others
- “The sodomite had been a temporary aberration; the homosexual was now a species”
- “The repressive hypothesis”: Foucault believed that 20th century attempts to liberate sexuality through codifying it were actually more repressive than say the Victorian era’s attitude towards sex and sexuality
- Criticised for being too euro-centric

Foucauldian Identity

- Essence of being?
- Interactionism vs. relationism
- Social constructivism and Power/knowledge



“It is no longer necessary to wait for the revolution to begin to realize ourselves: the self is the new strategic possibility.”

“I think that what the gay movement needs now is much more the art of life than a science or scientific knowledge of what sexuality is... we have to understand that with our desires, through our desires, go new forms of relationships, new forms of love, new forms of creation. Sex is not a fatality: It's a possibility for a creative life”

- Michel Foucault (Halperin)

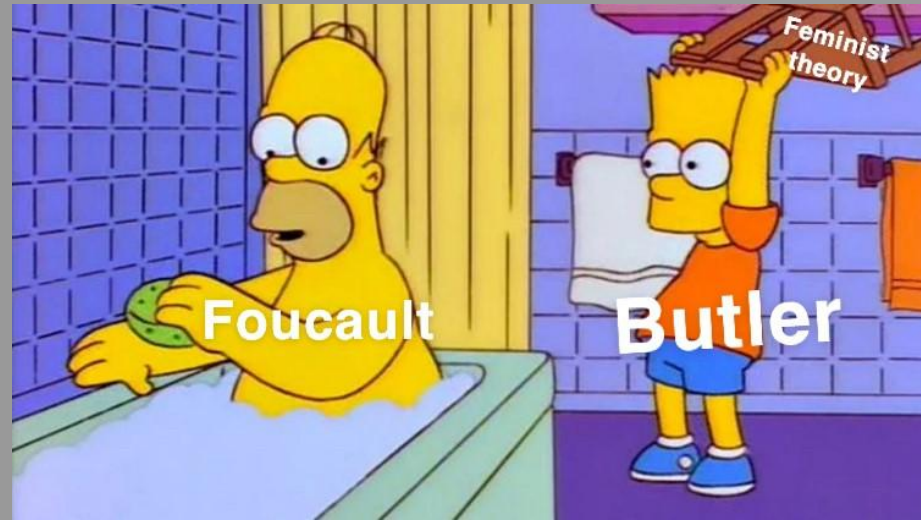
Gay Identity



“and his analysis of the interrelationships of knowledge, power and sexuality was the most important intellectual catalyst of queer theory” (Spargo)

Judith Butler

- Wrote “Gender Trouble” in 1990 which became foundational for both feminism and queer theory
- Applied Foucault’s notion of sexuality being a construct to gender, “gender performativity”
- In the preface of a later publishing of Gender Trouble she notes the influence of french post-structuralism (Foucault) on her thoughts



“According to Butler, gender should not be seen as a biological fact or internal state of ‘being’, but rather as an enacted performance and active way of ‘doing’ that makes us believe that it exists” (Queer in Europe)

Butler compared with Foucault

- “Many feminist critics had noted that Foucault’s study had been almost exclusively of the production of the male homosexual” (Spargo)
- “She upholds Foucault’s position that modern power is productive, while simultaneously transcending the idea that bodies are merely docile victims of the modern powers by which they are produced” (Queer in Europe)
- Compulsory heterosexuality

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