

get acquainted with

queer theory in one week

six things to read, in this order:¹

1. Warner, Michael. "Queer and Then?" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 1, 2012, sec. The Chronicle Review.
<http://chronicle.com/article/QueerThen-/130161>.
2. Bersani, Leo. "Is the Rectum a Grave?" *October* 43 (December 1, 1987): 197-222.
doi:10.2307/3397574.
3. Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *The Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. "Introduction: Axiomatic."
4. Warner, Michael, and Lauren Berlant. "Sex in Public." In *Publics and Counterpublics*, 187-208. New York: Zone Books, 2005.
5. Edelman, Lee. *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. "The Future Is Kid Stuff."
6. Puar, Jasbir K. *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Next Wave. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. "Introduction: Homonationalism and Biopolitics."

Questions to ask yourself (really write down some answers):

1. What are some running themes or recurring concerns in these pieces?
2. Who/what is cited frequently—books, people, presses, and journals?
3. What theoretical models do these authors find useful? What are the gaps in your theoretical training that you need to fill in order to read this work better?
4. What patterns, if any, do you notice? Where might you make an intervention?

¹ I'm assuming that you've read Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality*, volume I already, and preferably talked it over with a trusted smart person. If you haven't, get on it right away. This is foundational and non-negotiable.

Then:

Skim the table of contents of some recent issues (within the last two years) of the following journals. Try to spot familiar names (but it's okay if you don't). Pick out a few articles that seem to speak to your interests. Read them, and follow up on any of their citations that seem relevant to your interests.

- *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*
- *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*

At this point you'll have read about ten chapters or articles in the field of queer theory, a tiny percentage of what's out there. Are you an expert now? No. But you're on your way.

Now make yourself a new queer studies reading list, based on:

- what seems important to you in what you've read so far
- what speaks to your research interests
- the gaps in your theoretical training that you feel need filling