# Can the Statistics Speak? Counting Desire and Genders

Presentation for

The Power of Data: How Women- and Gender-Focused Research Organizations Can Advance SDG 5

Parallel event by Wellesley Centers for Women, UN CSW60

Ву

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UNIVERSITY

### Section 377: A Minuscule Minority?

- "Do you know any person who is homosexual?"
- No empirical data to show there is a homosexual "community"
- Constitutional vs. Popular Morality
- Identities vs. Acts
- Tyranny of the majoritarian data

#### **'25 lakh gays in India**, 7 pc are HIVpositive'

Express News Service , Express News Service : New Delhi, Wed Mar 14 2012, 03:51 hrs

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# The "Third" Gender

#### STATE STATS

State	No. of third gender persons ('000s)	
Uttar Pradesh	137	
Andhra Pradesh	44	
Maharashtra	41	
Bihar	41	
West Bengal	30	
MP	30	
Tamil Nadu	22	
Odisha	20	
Karnataka	20	
Rajasthan	17	
INDIA	488	

Hijras, Transgender

- Counting communities
- Targeted intervention- HIV statistics, Section 377
- "Classified empowerment"
- Visibly other in the social landscape
- Limited scope of GBV

### "Who Let The 'Data' Out?"

- Criminal records data: National Crime Records Bureau
- Census data: Ministry of Home Affairs, National Sample Survey Organisation
- Health services records: National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), HIV AIDS Alliance

- NALSA, Humsafar Trust, Voices Against 377, Lawyer's Collective, Naz Foundation
- Absence of think-tanks: Heinrich Boll Foundation, ORF
- Absence of GBV officially to trans-, lesbians

## Who gets counted?

'Equality is not something that we must expect from state institutions. It is something that we must both presuppose and create through collective action. Todd May investigates in depth the philosophical grounds, ethical implications and practical consequences of the view of active equality. Much more than a commentary, this book is a powerful analysis of what politics means and how we can recover the project of political action.' *Jacques Rancière* 

This is the first single-authored book in any language devoted entirely to the thought of Jacques Rancière. It focuses on his central political idea that a democratic politics emerges from the presupposition of equality. Todd May examines and extends this presupposition, offering a framework for understanding it, placing it in the current political context, and showing how it challenges traditional political philosophy and opens up neglected political paths.

May aims to show that Rancière's view offers both hope and perspective for those who seek to think about and engage in progressive political action.

Todd May is the first Kathryn and Calhoun Lemon Professor of Philosophy at Clemson University. Among his most recent publications are *Gilles Deleuze: An Introduction* (2005) and *The Philosophy of Foucault* (2006). He has also been active in various political movements of equality, including anti-racism work and the struggle for Palestinian rights.

ISBN 978 0 7486 3586 3 Edinburgh University Press 22 George Square Edinburgh EH8 91.F H8 91.F www.eup.ed.ac.uk Cover design designforpablishing o.uk The Political Thought of Jacques Rancière Creating Equality To

The Political Thought of Jacques Rancière

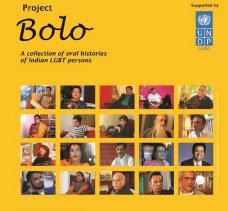
**Creating Equality** 

Todd May

- Unreported cases & violence by state actors
- "Marked bodies"
- Out & loud
- Spectrum of identities

Reading Lives, Measuring Experiences Emphasis on qualitative data

- Surveys & Interviews subjective-type responses
- Attitudes survey e.g. World Values Survey data; time-use data
- People sensitive data collection
- Oral Histories e.g. Project Bolo
- Audio/Visual archives e.g. SPARROW
- Orinam



www.projectbolo.con

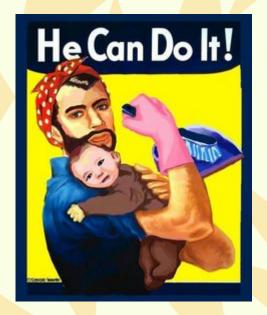
Producer: Vivek Anand Concept, Interviews & Direction: Sridhar Rangayar





#### **Intersections with Gender**

#### Gender Equity and Sexuality



- Homophobia isn't only about sexuality; it's also about sexism
- How to count sexual pleasure?
- Preventing gender-based violence

### **Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality**



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Interviews

