

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

By

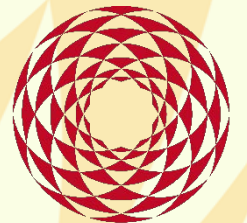
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and Sexuality



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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 HIV-positive’

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



The “Third” Gender

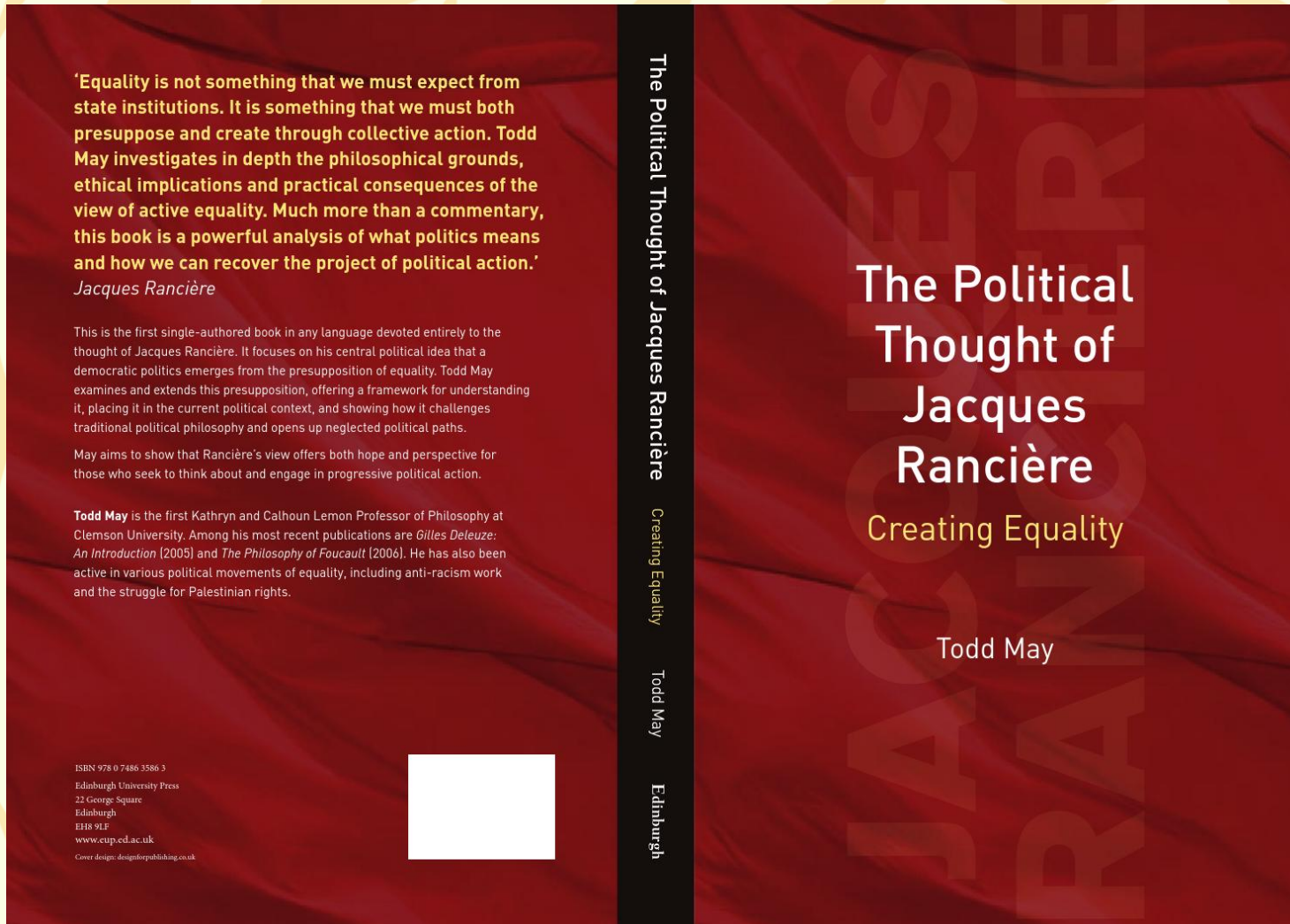
STATE STATS	
State	No. of third gender persons ('000s)
Uttar Pradesh	137
Andhra Pradesh	44
Maharashtra	41
Bihar	41
West Bengal	30
MP	30
Tamil Nadu	22
Odisha	20
Karnataka	20
Rajasthan	17
INDIA	488

- 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?

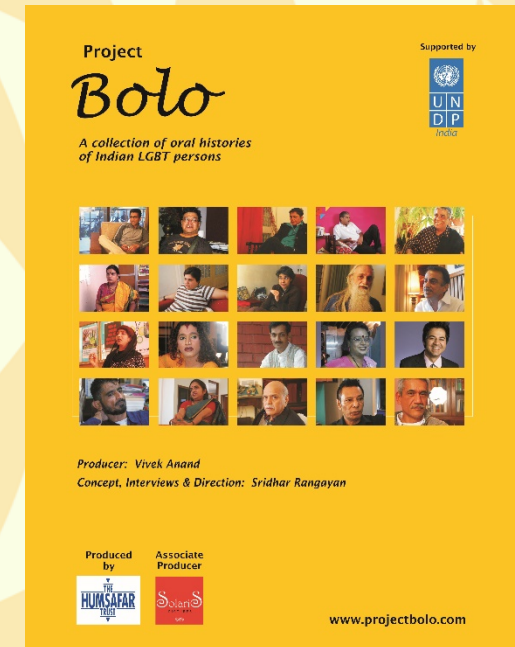


- Unreported cases & violence by state actors
- “Marked bodies”
- Out & loud
- Spectrum of identities

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



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

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Workshop modules (FGDs)

Media research

Public Archive

Web-series

Interviews



Thank You!