

*Angela Kolbe*

### **Empowerment through Law? Intersexuality in a legal discourse**

This article examines the issue of emancipation by focussing on the relation between intersexuality and the law. It reviews the German legislative as well as legal context and further compares German and Columbian jurisdiction. The author argues that the law's potential to contribute towards social change, to assist in fostering progressive practices and to empower marginalised groups has unfortunately not been exploited yet in regard to intersexuality. The author advocates using legal instruments for this purpose and critically scrutinizes specific propositions. The shift by German courts on cases relating to questions of sexual identity shows that this position is not only wishful thinking. New developments on transsexuality give hope that these decisions may have a positive impact on the legal situation of intersexuals.

*Persson Perry Baumgartinger*

### **Dear reader... - On emancipation and pathologisation, empowerment and language modification**

This article is about emancipation, pathologization, empowerment and language transformations. Based on a language, that discriminates trans, inter and queer living persons and acts from two „only available“ genders/sexes „man/woman this article will demonstrate possible strategies of resistance of how tow-sexed/gendered languages could be liberated from their compulsory binary system (Zwangszweigeschlechtlichkeit). The article wants to inform, provoke, point out and above all wants to make keen for more creative resisting language strategies.

*Cabala de Sylvain and Carsten Balzer*

### **The SYLVAIN Conventions– An attempt at a `gender equitable` grammatical transformation of the German language**

This article is a modified and annotated version of a grammatical transformation of the German language to be found in the appendices of the manuscript of a queer psychedelic science-fiction novel. The central aspect of this grammatical transformation – referred to in the novel as the `Sylvain Conventions` - involves the introduction of a new grammatical gender with its pronouns and declination.

The intention behind the publication of the `Sylvain Conventions` in Liminalis is to stimulate further discussion about the emancipatory potential of the language.

*Barbara Eder*

**Queer Technologies of Gender. Representations of technofeminism, cyborgisms and other dildo-topia. Machines in love – a theoretical paradox?**

The analysis of a common product of popular culture stands at the beginning of the following text: Chris Cunningham's video 'All Is Full Of Love' visualizes central figures of contemporary queer discourse and gender theory. These tropes- so my thesis- have the ability to transgress conventional borders between sexes, genders and the distinction between human and animal. 'All Is Full Of Love' demonstrates some main theories deriving from the 'Counter- Science' of Spanish queer theorist Beatriz Preciado. With her project named 'Dildotektonik', Preciado is part of a feminist\_queer tradition rooted in 'A Manifesto for Cyborgs' by science theorist Donna Haraway. In consequence of this theoretical genealogy the appearance of cyborgs on the screen is no great surprise, but a shift in form of representation: In 'All Is Full Of Love' the spectator can see that a cyborg is not a dehumanised figure, but a way of living beyond gender borders. Dildos, mental extensions of mind or the tentacles of machines are not only instruments to disturb conventional imaginations of gendered bodies. They are also quotations of heterosexist practices of making the body and – in consequence of this- genuine queer strategies of changing bodies and genders.

*Jennifer Moos*

**Bodily Transformations and Behavioural Transgressions in Will Self's *Cock and Bull***

This paper examines the connection between bodily transformations and behavioural transgressions in a literary work by the British author Will Self. In *Cock and Bull* (1992), readers encounter two protagonists whose fantastic bodily transformations can be read as a rebellion against a heteronormative sex and gender system. The article focuses on the novella "Bull" in which John Bull, a highly masculine rugby player and sports journalist, reaches an identity crisis and has to pass a phase of gender insecurity when being confronted with the growth of a vagina in his knee pit.

The paper's argument is based on the assumption that literature as art has the potential to function as a liminal space. In this space, emancipatory alternatives can be created and 'lived' which exist beyond established, dichotomous sex(ed) and gender(ed) normativity. Relying on a queer-feminist approach, this article asks questions on the interrelation between the body, personhood, nationality, masculinity and sexuality, medical ethics and the pathologization of the gender ambiguous bodies presented in *Cock and Bull*.