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Review of Emergent Identities: New Sexualities, Genders and Relationships in a Digital Era. Rob Cover

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policies and have higher rates of incarceration. These disparities are then examined within adult and juvenile contexts. The challenges of reentry and proposed opportunities to enhance successful reintegration are documented in the next chapter. Final chapters are dedicated to the subjects of incarcerated veterans and the intersection of immigration and incarceration, as well as terminal illness within correctional settings, all of which are very underreported issues.

A major strength of this book is its presentation of information in a way that is useful and easily understood by professionals from a variety of fields, including criminal justice, social work, and psychology. I recommend this book for readers interested in learning about special populations in correctional facilities, options to provide evidence-based treatment, current policies impacting them and prevention strategies to potentially avoid their incarceration. A shortfall of the book is that while it provides an overview of certain vulnerable populations, the issues involving the topics are so complex that it is difficult to accomplish its stated intention of “providing extensive discussion” in each area. The book would be strengthened also by including voices from marginalized people themselves. Only in one chapter is slam poetry excerpted from juvenile prisoners, which is good, but it is imperative that the perspectives of other inmates themselves also be shared, to increase their visibility as humans and not just as criminals.

Carolyn Sutherby
Michigan State University

Rob Cover, *Emergent Identities: New Sexualities, Genders and Relationships in a Digital Era*. Routledge (2019), 164 pages, \$42.95 (paperback).

As those who work with young people may know, changes are taking place in how young people describe their identities. More identity categories are emerging among young people than have ever been seen before. Asking young adults about their identity now produces a series of categories which many

older people will have trouble comprehending. In this book, Rob Cover offers illumination regarding this change and helps those of older generations understand this evolving landscape of identity.

Cover notes that with the advent of the digital age, people who have been unable to find community are able to find people with whom they identify and share interests. This is especially true for those who have been born into a world where the internet is taken for granted and used as a part of everyday life. Because of this connection, people have begun discussions about identity and how the established binary categories, such as straight or gay/lesbian, male or female, have come to feel constraining for many youth. These historical normalized labels are increasingly perceived as inadequate and outdated. As a result, young people are identifying themselves in very different ways.

Cover refers to what is emerging as a “new taxonomy” of gender and sexuality, which is challenging existing categories and assumptions about gender and sexuality by “re-framing the ways in which gender and sexuality are thought, enacted, embodied, represented and practiced” (p. 2). In part, this serves to create space for more contested identities, more complexity of identity, and intersectional identities; it creates space for everyone to be recognized. Instead of being reduced to a few labels assumed to apply to everyone, there is a movement to specify how people really feel and behave and see themselves, which is much wider than the previous labels are able to accommodate.

Cover provides a fascinating look at the workings of these new identities and how they are developing among young people, who do not identify fully even with the LGBTQ label, and instead are much more likely to identify as “non-binary” or “asexual.” Cover explores the emerging taxonomy of identities, then delves deeper into the roles of gender and relationships. He goes on to explore the changing nature of identity, in which authenticity plays a huge role and intersectionality becomes recognized and honored.

In this brief text, Cover begins with an explanation of what is going on with emerging identities for young people, and then explores the new identity labels, as he builds this idea of a new “sexual and gender taxonomy.” This allows us to define

ourselves as gendered and sexual subjects in terms of relationships and in terms of our own experience of our bodies, which often do not fit the historical categories. Cover underlines the fact that these new identities are deeply felt, reflectively constituted and relational. They are more inclusive and expansive than previous categories for identities. However, Cover also notes that the level of categorization is not simply a product of queer theory and its fluidity; instead, these labels are more specific, resulting in a much broader field of identities.

Cover explores the expanding range of gender identities and definitions of sexual attractions and discusses these changes as destabilizing the heterosexual matrix of relationships. People are now using identifiers that signify the types of relationships they prefer, be they romantic, sexual, or platonic. This, along with the use of new varieties of gender identities and pronouns, leads to the creation of explicit identities and explicit statements in terms of the types of relationships people are seeking.

Cover then discusses five factors that he believes have led to this new taxonomy: the framework of sexual citizenship; the cult of authenticity; demands of inclusivity; the anti-fluidity backlash; and the role of populism. The roles of these factors are explored in the ways they meet cultural needs for sexual citizenship and authenticity, the needs of gender and sexual minorities, who do not have a place in the current discourses, and the need for coherent subjectivities.

Two chapters explore the notion of "queer choice" and the emergent "new heterosexualities." Cover then summarizes the implications of these emerging identities, one of the strongest of which is the disruption of stereotypes. If we cannot place people into binary historical categories, it is more difficult to apply stereotypes.

Another impact identified by Cover is that health and social services provision is becoming more problematic, as providers are realizing that they do not understand the terminology being used by the young people with whom they work. They need to learn about these emerging identities in order to provide proper healthcare and resources, as well as to understand what their clients and patients are telling them about their lives and their problems. Without this knowledge, there will be unavoidable gaps in care. Additionally, if research data is to be useful,

researchers need to adapt their instruments to reflect these new taxonomies. Overall, this is a fascinating read addressing a topic that is only getting more relevant. I recommend it for interested readers who seek a deeper understanding of the multiple identities being presented by the youth in our midst.

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Lois Presser, *Inside Story: How Narratives Drive Mass Harm*. University of California Press (2018), 200 pages, \$85 (hardcover), \$29.95 (paperback).

Lois Presser's newest book contributes to a growing literature within the study of narrative criminology. In *Inside Story*, Presser explores the relationship between stories, emotion, and action, providing an interesting review and critique of theory, as well as a framework with which criminologists can examine how stories told in support of racism, autocracy, and nativism move us. While this book is likely to be an important contribution to narrative criminology, it is challenging to digest. Yet Presser's thesis is clear throughout—the stories we tell often justify mass harm.

Presser begins by considering the importance of narrative, asking what accounts for the emotional power of narratives and what can they teach us about mass harm. While narrative has always been central to criminology, Presser's goal is to explain the *arousal power* of narrative while still accounting for context and human agency. Narratives can compel such large swaths of people. While chapter two focuses on how harmful narratives become normalized, chapter three considers how theories of cognition and emotion might help clarify the "figurative pull" of narratives. According to Presser, for narratives to be effective they must first be enculturated. To demonstrate how narratives of mass harm become so widely accepted, Presser considers how language is manipulated and presented as "value-neutral," when it is often clearly not value-neutral at all. Word choice, she argues, is culturally and historically specific and never simply