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Review of *Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research into Homosexuality*. Simon LeVay. Reviewed by Carol Tully, Tulane University.

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the impact of discriminatory enforcement of laws banning littering and parking in red zones. These are, of course, dissimilar in that the former implicates a constitutional issue where the latter issues do not. More importantly, they are incomparable because one ban may be as important as the other depending on the relative position of the person it impacts. Finally, perhaps the most offensive example of the author's simplistic approach to securing equal access comes late in the text when Graber suggests that "repeating the arguments of chapters III and IV at appropriate moments may be the only political strategy necessary for keeping abortion legal (p. 118)."

Graber's theoretical approach is even-handed in that the equal access argument transcends the sticking points of pro-life and pro-choice rhetoric, i.e. when does life begin; does the fetus have constitutional rights; is the fetus entitled to constitutional protections? In theory, the equal access concept works whether abortion is legal or not. Historically, however, discriminatory treatment and disparate impact have occurred even where equal access has been "legally" assured; for example, in education, employment, and housing. The author deserves credit for presenting some important ideas in this book and students of social policy may find Professor Graber's approach of interest in terms of a broad examination of the concept of equal access and how it is played out for the poor and for women of color. In the end, however, his message is deceptively and misleadingly simple: policymakers, judges, lawyers, enforcers of the law, and their families and friends must not have nor exercise a privileged access to abortion. If only resolution of this great struggle could be that easy.

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Simon LeVay, *Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research into Homosexuality*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996, 364 pages, \$25.00 hardcover.

Already well known for his work that described the differences between the brain structures of homosexual and heterosexual men, Simon LeVay (a neuroanatomist) tackles the persistent

questions related to what makes certain women lesbian and certain men gay. A renowned scientist in the field, LeVay's extremely well written, fourteen chapter book is roughly divided into three sections. The first gives the reader a historical overview, the second explores various approaches that have been used in the study of sexual orientation, and the third centers on societal issues related to research on homosexuality.

The introduction and first chapter provide a historical context and foundation from which the remainder of the text evenly develops. Starting with the German gay rights movement that occurred at the start of this century, LeVay immediately engages the reader with an exceptionally good historical overview of sexual research and advocacy. Moving from Hirshfeld's views of the "third sex," LeVay examines various scientific approaches that have been used in the study of homosexuality. While the author acknowledges that while the early theoreticians (Hirshfeld, Brand, Freud) are dead, their "intellectual heirs are still with us and still going at it hammer and tongs" (p. 41). But, to temper some of the early antihomosexual theory, recent scientific discoveries have helped to view sexual orientation somewhat differently than did those early pioneers.

LeVay analyzes the prevalence of homosexuality and concludes that categorizing individuals as homosexuals or heterosexuals while convenient, is also inadequate because of the amount of diversity associated with sexual orientation. The focus shifts to a riveting account of psychoanalysis and curing homosexuality. Socarides and Bieber, common names associated with reparative therapy, have their scientific work analyzed, and data exploring learning and unlearning homosexuality are detailed. One of the added features of these chapters is the excellent case materials that are provided to support or refute certain theoretical positions. These materials provide pragmatic evidence as to the utility of any particular theoretical framework and cause the reader to ponder what has been done and continues to be done in the name of science to "cure" those who are not sick.

Hormones, the brain, and genes each have a chapter devoted to them and, along with chapters related to stress and mental traits, comprise the core content of the second section. This section relies on physiological and psychological data to support its

conclusions and does a credible job of integrating science with history. Finally, the remaining chapters analyze current research findings related to the more sociological aspects of sexual orientation. The content related to homosexuality among animals is interesting as it tends to refute the popular belief that birds and bees don't do it (engage in same-sex sexual activities), and the chapter on homosexuality as a disease reminds us of the reasons for the 1973 APA decision to remove homosexuality from the DSM. While this content, and content related to homosexuality and the law seem out of place in a book entitled *Queer Science*, these chapters do provide interesting, if not mandatory reading for those interested in issues associated with sexual orientation.

LeVay concludes with some thought provoking thoughts about where science on sexual orientation is taking us and finally, after fourteen chapters of trying to discover what makes lesbians lesbian and gay men gay, leaves the reader with the seeming reality that any number of variables including genes, hormones, or psychosocial influences could cause homosexuality. We are then left with something of a conundrum as we continue to wonder about what really causes sexual orientation.

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