



## Yes Species Glossary

**Ableism:** being disabled by prejudice.

**Affective labor:** the life work of producing the emotions and caring that facilitate social coherence and community building.

**Affirmation:** the power of yes! Possibility.

**Affiliation:** becoming-sister.

**Ambient Arrogance:** an encompassing atmosphere of superior normalcy—often unspoken—that one does not relate to, or benefit from.

**Ambiguous:** (literally) to wander about, uncertain, to go in both directions.

**Androgynous:** hermaphrodite; **1.** having the characteristics or nature of both male and female; **2.** bearing both staminate and pistillate flowers in the same cluster with the male flowers uppermost. (*Websters*)

**Anti-discipline:** clandestine “ways of operating,” tactics, and ruses, by which consumers deflect the disciplining effects of technocratic structures.

**Caduceus:** **1.** the symbolic staff of a herald; a representation of a staff with two entwined snakes and two wings at the top; **2.** “a staff bearing an insignia and symbolizing a physician”—or a major Health Insurance Co. =Blue Shield Blue Cross.

**Colonization:** an abstract force/movement which, when applied to a variety of subjects, may reveal new inter-connectivities (we swim in an inherent sea of capitalism and patriarchy—one could never be outside of either).

**Continuum:** an unbroken connection; a continuous series of elements passing into each other.

**Diagnosis:** **1.** to recognize by signs and symptoms; **2.** a statement or conclusion concerning the nature or cause of some phenomenon. Judging from appearances.

yes

**Difference:** “Things could be thought differently.”

(“Sexual difference as Universal,” Luce Irigaray, *i love to you: sketch of a possible felicity in history*)

**Episodic:** **1.** made up of separate loosely connected episodes (brief unit of action in dramatic or literary work); **2.** a developed situation that is integral but separable from continuous narrative; **3.** temporary, as opposed to continuous.

**Ethnic:** a loose term, referring to possibilities of being “not white” (to rejuvenate/recoup its perjorative nature, as a declarative Other).

**Expel:** **1.** to compel somebody to leave or give up membership in an institution such as a school, political party, or club; **2.** to push or drive something out with force.

**Expert:** one with special skill or knowledge representing mastery of a particular subject (*OED*). The concept of mastery is a regular embodiment of authority, which however involves submissive repetition in order to be attained

yes

**Epicene:** having but one form to indicate either sex; having characteristics of the other sex; intersexual; effeminate; lacking characteristics of either sex. (*Websters*)

**FGM:** Female Genital Mutilation, female circumcision operations historically practiced in many African countries, in the US and in Europe. Current practices of aesthetic surgery of the vulva are available in many plastic surgeon’s offices in the US.

**FTM:** Female-to-Male biological transformation.

**Gender choice:** many transsexuals and intersexuals now argue that we each have a “right” to “choose” our own gendered bodies and to do whatever it takes to achieve that.

**Genderqueerness:** is a loose terminology referring to concepts of being in/between/outside of the two-gendered system.

**Grammatical:** Foucault's paradox of subjectivation demonstrates that one can derive a way of thinking about the process of articulation, in which naming formulates the subject, meaning that it does not exist prerepresentationally.

**Hegemonic Masculinity:** see 'Ambient Arrogance'.

**Hermaphrodite:** **1a.** animal or plant having both male and female reproductive organs; **b.** homosexual; **2.** something that is a combination of diverse elements. Combines eros [Love's body] and the soul [Psyche].

**IGM:** Intersex Genital Mutilation. Often coerced and secret gender reassignment operations done on children born with ambiguous genitalia.

yes

**Intersex:** an intersexual individual. Blend or mix of internal and external features usually classified either male or female. Gender assignment is usually determined on the basis of chromosomes, brains, and genitalia. Reported percentage of intersex babies born ranges from 0.1%–2%.

**Interruption:** that which happens in the spaces between events or acts.

**Irregulars:** folk-doctors, healers not trained in patriarchal medical schools.

**Masturbation:** the stimulation, often by hand, of one's genitals for sexual pleasure; the action or practice of masturbating oneself or (less commonly) another person; an instance of this. (*OED*)

**Mediation:** To occupy a middle position, to act as an intervening agency. To act as an intermediary agent exhibiting in bringing, effecting, or communicating (*OED*), thus in the sense of “translation.”

**MTF:** Male-to-Female gender transformation.

**MGM: 1.** Metro Goldwyn Mayer, a major Hollywood Motion Picture company, known for such films as *Wizard of Oz*; *2001: A Space Odyssey*; and *Thelma & Louise*; **2.** Male Genital Mutilation (*note:* in western hegemonic thinking, to mutilate male genitalia is to render the subject feminized).

**Neo-vagina:** new vagina, a medically constructed vagina.

**Nostrum:** questionable remedies, such as the often addictive “patent” medicines containing alcohol and narcotics, marketed especially for “women’s complaints.”

**Productive:** fertile and messy.

yes

**Rehabilitation:** to restore to former capacity; to bring to a condition of constructive activity (*OED*). This word often colloquially refers to the architecture of reconstruction, (as in “rehab”), meaning to make suitable for living.

**Reiteration:** Butler’s sense of reiteration illustrates that repetition of cultural norms destabilizes their very conditions, creating “gaps and fissures” for new possibilities of difference (Butler, *Bodies that Matter*, pg. 10).

**Report:** connotes both a detailed account of a judicial opinion as well as a common relay of opinion, in the simplest terms possible.

**Self-erasure:** an unproductive total negation of self-identification, which results from an unpromising line of inquiry within identity politics.

**Singularity:** existing uniquely within multitude; becoming-woman.

**SRS:** Sexual Reassignment Surgery. Part of medical sexual reassignment surgery criteria is that the candidate should make a “reasonably attractive” member of the other gender.

**Social Reassignment:** an alternative to medical and physical intervention into intersex persons.

**Sophistication:** to make wiser through education.

**Strategy:** “I call a ‘strategy’ the calculus of force-relationships which becomes possible when a subject of will and power can be isolated from an ‘environment.’” (M. de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, pg. xix).

**Surgery:** the art or practice of treating injuries, deformities, and other disorders by manual operation or instrumental appliances (*OED*).

**Terata:** a marvel, prodigy, monster. Monstrous formations or births.

yes

**Teratogenesis:** the production of monsters or misshapen organisms—as for example in Monsanto’s terminator gene and many other transgenic and GMO plants and animals.

**Teratologist:** **1.** one who deals in stories of marvels or prodigies (rare); **2.** One versed in teratology.

**Teratoma:** a tumor, esp. of the gonads, characteristically formed of numerous distinct tissues and believed usually to arise from germ cells or their precursors (such as skin, nerve, muscle, cartilage, gut and lung), mixed together in a disorganized mass.

**Third gender:** challenges the norm of the two-gender system. A third gender is a space in-between.

**Transformation:** literally “to be between forms.”

**Transgender:** confuses the stereotypical division of two-gendered system as it implies a transitional in-between

space between male and female. Also challenges the binary hetero-homo sexual divide.

**Useless Gender:** a suggested tactic of radical refusal of the two-gendered (binary gender) system.

**Vaginoplasty:** surgical construction of a vagina, making “nothing” [lack] from “something.”

**Viable Life:** A philosophical question of “the good,” which bears an interesting relationship to any conversation about human rights. If the terms of freedom are debatable, then upon what ground can we build an ethical system?

**Visibility:** the degree of clearness, a measure of the ability of radiant energy (*OED*).

**Voire (fr.):** “This word will henceforth come down to saying the truth (*verus*, *voirement*) but also the undecided suspense of what remains on the march or on the margin within true, but nevertheless not being false in no longer being reduced to the true. Elsewhere defined: *le vraiment feint*: the truly feigned, the true lies fine.” (Derrida, from *Glas*)

**Whiteness:** see ‘ambient arrogance’. White: lack of pigmentation, devoid of distinctive hue, blank.

yes



Native American, 1st C. AD