

(Free pdf) Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas (Series Q)

Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas (Series Q)

Esther Newton

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#627043 in Books Duke University Press Books 2000-11-22 2000-11-22 Original language: English PDF # 1
9.00 x .89 x 6.00l, 1.27 #File Name: 0822326124360 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Esther Newton : Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas (Series Q) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Personal Essays, Public Ideas (Series Q):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mary117 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Her Own Best Informant By V. Holliday Esther Newton is an extremely gifted thinker and writer. She points

up important issues for gender studies in a clear and compelling, and still quite groundbreaking, style. This book works very diligently and successfully at several levels: as a historical narrative of the trajectory of Newton's life and career; as a theoretical discourse which is situated specifically by her historical narrative; as a critique of and a profound contribution to her profession, anthropology; as a powerful argument for the inevitable relationship between theory and history; as a courageous and provocative piece of scholarship. Many of these essays were written early in the second wave of feminism, so the issues they engage point up the degree to which Newton has been ahead of her time. That she narrativizes the essays as the historical life of an academic (herself) attests to the fact that she is still ahead of her time: everything-- political, academic, social, sexual--is lived. There are no categories which happen outside of the people who make them. Because of Newton's autobiographical, comfortable style, it should be noted that the book, although clearly academic, is a fairly easy read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer The book is simply amazing.

Margaret Mead Made Me Gay is the intellectual autobiography of cultural anthropologist Esther Newton, a pioneer in gay and lesbian studies. Chronicling the development of her ideas from the excitement of early feminism in the 1960s to friendly critiques of queer theory in the 1990s, this collection covers a range of topics such as why we need more precise sexual vocabularies, why there have been fewer women doing drag than men, and how academia can make itself more hospitable to queers. It brings together such classics as *The Mythic Mannish Lesbian* and *Dick(less) Tracy and the Homecoming Queen* with entirely new work such as *Theater: Gay Anti-Church*. Newton's provocative essays detail a queer academic career while offering a behind-the-scenes view of academic homophobia. In four sections that correspond to major periods and interests in her life: Drag and Camp, Lesbian-Feminism, Butch, and Queer Anthropology the volume reflects her successful struggle to create a body of work that uses cultural anthropology to better understand gender oppression, early feminism, theatricality and performance, and the sexual and erotic dimensions of fieldwork. Combining personal, theoretical, and ethnographic perspectives, *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay* also includes photographs from Newton's personal and professional life. With wise and revealing discussions of the complex relations between experience and philosophy, the personal and the political, and identities and practices, *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay* is important for anyone interested in the birth and growth of gay and lesbian studies.

.com Anthropologist Esther Newton, second-wave feminist, butch from birth, and author of the groundbreaking 1972 study of drag, *Mother Camp*, here presents 20 engaged and engaging essays and book excerpts from the past three decades, ranging from political arguments to memoirs. Early in her academic career, Newton took a stand against the dry, "objective" writing style then being promoted in her field (and many others) as the social sciences sought to ally themselves with the hard sciences. The resulting prose is a curious but flexible hybrid well suited to Newton's related subject matters--sexual politics (including gender identity); the intersections of feminism and the academy; and her own evolving position as a butch lesbian in the academy, the lesbian and gay world, and the culture at large. Although Newton's early work is important and influential, some of the most striking pieces in this collection date from the 1990s, including Newton's critical and historical exploration of theatre as "gay anti-church"; her essay "Dick(less) Tracy and the Homecoming Queen," in which she tracks the election of the first-ever lesbian homecoming queen of Cherry Grove in the summer of 1994; and "My Butch Body," a memoir of her childhood and troubled youth. --Regina Marler From Publishers Weekly The wonderful title of this collection refers to the moment when Newton, a college student ashamed of her feelings for other women, read *Coming of Age in Samoa* and realized that various cultures have differing ideas of what constitutes "normal" sexuality. It seems only fitting, then, that Newton (Cherry Grove, Fire Island), now a professor of anthropology at SUNY Purchase, would become a pioneering scholar in lesbian and gay studies. This collection is an intellectual genealogy of Newton's work from the last 30 years. It reveals the prescience and durability of her earliest writings. The selections from her influential 1972 study of drag culture, *Mother Camp*, make effortless statements about gender presentation as "performance" and "impersonation" that are now staples of contemporary queer theory. In the 1960s, however, she had little professional support from her colleagues ("My topic was widely viewed as an inappropriate dirty joke"). Her newer pieces prove just as stimulating and vital. "Theater: Gay Anti-Church" argues that for gay people, theater serves as an almost religious site of community, iconography and ritual. A chapter from her upcoming autobiography, *My Butch Career*, shares personal revelations and exposes the formation of young butch identity: "My child body was a strong and capable instrument somehow stuffed into the word 'girl.'" This collection will be deservedly popular among devotees of gay and lesbian studies and anthropology. 23 bw photos. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Esther Newton is, quite simply, a pioneering figure in researching contemporary queer populations, as well as one of the most important voices in post WWII anthropology. We are very fortunate to finally have her essays assembled into an accessible collection. This anthology is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in late twentieth-century anthropology, feminism, gay and lesbian studies, gender and sexuality, and the social science of everyday life. Gayle Rubin