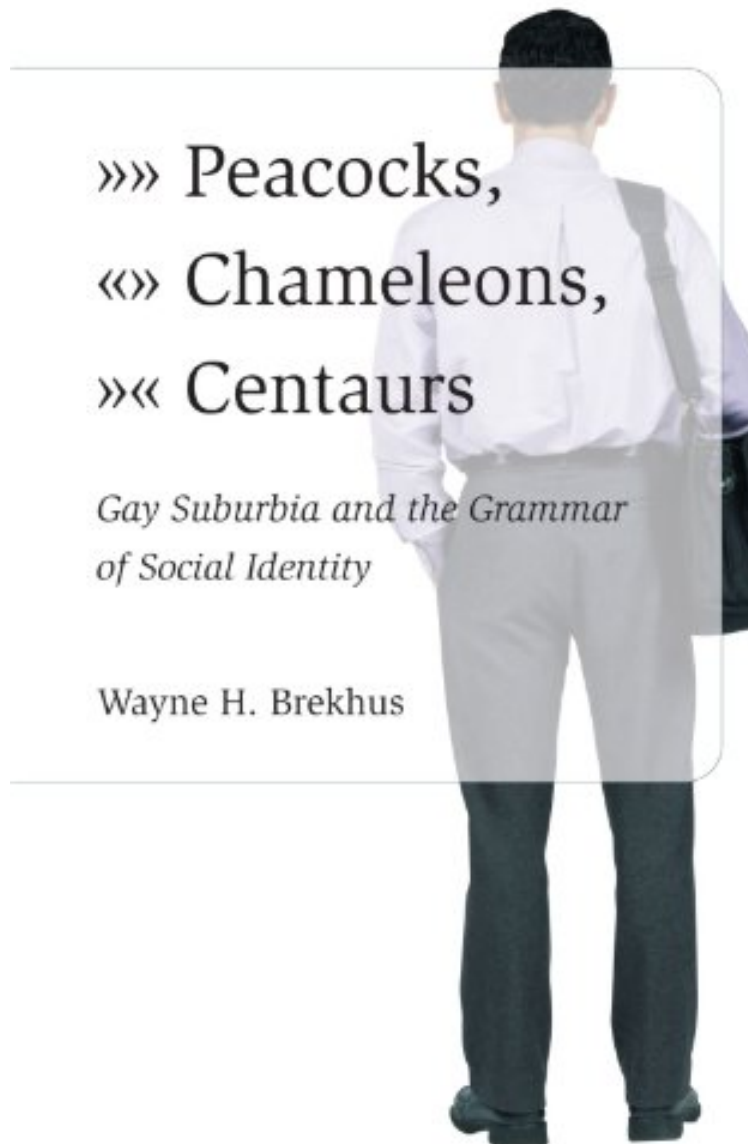


# Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of Social Identity

Wayne Brekhus

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**Wayne Brekhus : Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of Social Identity** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of Social Identity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great class/sociology theory. By Jamie Brekhus is such a friendly, intelligent guy! After reading this book in class and discussing the identity theory/ideal types presented, including in a paper, we were able to conference call him. He's honest, forthright, and has much to say on the book published over a decade ago. They're useful ideal types, and suburban gays are such a compelling topic to study the theory. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great piece! Brekhus' arguments are insightful and expand our ... By Kevin A great piece! Brekhus' arguments are insightful and expand our understanding of how individuals construct and view their social worlds! Use it in my classes! And it has helped in my research as well! 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Analysis and GREAT writer By Jonathan D. Coffman Peacocks is a great book presented by Wayne B. (Whom I've had the pleasure of talking to, learning from, and been a student of). This book details out how suburban gay culture co-exists and the habits and behaviors as well as the background of how and why things happen the way they do. It's a very fast read and is written with a general audience in mind. Another great book from a Missouri author!

What does it mean to be a gay man living in the suburbs? Do you identify primarily as gay, or suburban, or some combination of the two? For that matter, how does anyone decide what his or her identity is? In this first-ever ethnography of American gay suburbanites, Wayne H. Brekhus demonstrates that who one is depends at least in part on where and when one is. For many urban gay men, being homosexual is key to their identity because they live, work, and socialize in almost exclusively gay circles. Brekhus calls such men "lifestylers" or peacocks. Chameleons or "commuters," on the other hand, live and work in conventional suburban settings, but lead intense gay social and sexual lives outside the suburbs. Centaurs, meanwhile, or "integrators," mix typical suburban jobs and homes with low-key gay social and sexual activities. In other words, lifestylers see homosexuality as something you are, commuters as something you do, and integrators as part of yourself. Ultimately, Brekhus shows that lifestyling, commuting, and integrating embody competing identity strategies that occur not only among gay men but across a broad range of social categories. What results, then, is an innovative work that will interest sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, and students of gay culture.

From the Inside Flap What does it mean to be a gay man living in the suburbs? Do you identify primarily as gay, or suburban, or some combination of the two? For that matter, how does anyone decide what his or her identity is? In this first-ever ethnography of American gay suburbanites, Wayne H. Brekhus demonstrates that who one is depends at least in part on where and when one is. For many urban gay men, being homosexual is key to their identity because they live, work, and socialize in almost exclusively gay circles. Brekhus calls such men "lifestylers" or peacocks. Chameleons or "commuters," on the other hand, live and work in conventional suburban settings, but lead intense gay social and sexual lives outside the suburbs. Centaurs, meanwhile, or "integrators," mix typical suburban jobs and homes with low-key gay social and sexual activities. In other words, lifestylers see homosexuality as something you are, commuters as something you do, and integrators as part of yourself. Ultimately, Brekhus shows that lifestyling, commuting, and integrating embody competing identity strategies that occur not only among gay men but across a broad range of social categories. What results, then, is an innovative work that will interest sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, and students of gay culture.