

A man with dark hair and red-rimmed glasses is speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark, patterned button-down shirt. The background is dark, and a microphone is visible in the foreground. The image is partially obscured by a graphic overlay on the left side.

# Disidentifications by: José Esteban Muñoz

By: Victoria Pope

# Biography

- Born in Havana, Cuba January 1, 1976
- Died December 3, 2013
- Professor and former Chair in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts
- Muñoz was the recipient of the Duke Endowment Fellowship in 1989
- He also received the Penn State University Fellowship in 1997
- He was a part of the Modern Language Association, American Studies Association, and the College Art Association.
- He attained his undergraduate at Sarah Lawrence College in 1989 with a B.A. in Comparative Literature
- Received his doctorate from the Graduate Program in Literature at Duke University in 1994

# Outline

## Introduction

In the beginning he introduces Marga Gomez a Puerto Rican and Cuban who uses her performance's and her memories illustrates Munoz's disidentifications. Then goes on to define what disidentifications is,

"Disidentifications is meant to be descriptive of the survival strategies the minority subject practices in order to negotiate phobic majoritarian public sphere that continuously elides or punishes the existence of subjects who do not conform to the phantasm of normative citizenship" (Page 4).

## Dissing Identity

In this section he explains that identity is easier for the majority rather than the minority. Much of the subculture that is created goes into the minorities counter public domains. The definition of self is different for all

"... identity as a site of struggle where fixed dispositions clash against socially constituted definitions" (page 7)

# Outline ctd.

Identity isn't a straight process, one can identify and counter identify with all aspects within the world. Identity can come in many ways, shapes, and forms. There is never one singular identity a person has. An identity can be fully or partially there .

" Identifying with an object, person, lifestyle, history, political ideology, religious orientation, and so on, means also simultaneously and partially counteridentifying , as well as only partially identifying with different aspects of the social and psychic world" (page 9).

## Race Myopias/ Queer Blind Spots: Disidentifying with "Theory"

Disidentification is not singular it has a intertwining network within society. Culture is a segregated aspect. The paradigms come at the expense of one another. At many times diversity within the community is masked by white queerness.

"... the vast majority of gay and lesbian studies queer theory in print shows the same absence of colored images..."  
"(page 11)

# Outline ctd.

## Identification beyond and with Psychoanalysis

In this section Munoz discusses the way many psychologists refute each other's work on the topic of one's relationship to identity and desire and how people can disidentify and counter identify within a sect or discourse.

"Counteridentification, the attempt at dissolving or abolishing entrenched cultural formations ... "(page 14).

## Disidentification's Work

This section gives various examples of disidentification and how each one contradicts and compliments itself. The discourses of identity is never set in stone and is a broad subject.

"... disidentification is a strategy that resists a conception of power as being a fixed discourse. Disidentification negotiates strategies that resist a conception of power as being a fixed discourse... "(page 19).

# Outline ctd.

## Listening to Disidentification

Who is "self"?/ what is "self"?

" The 'real self' who come into being through fiction is not the self who produces fiction ,but is instead produced by fiction" (page 20).

## Marginal Eyes: The Radical Feminists of Color Underpinnings of Disidentification

This section highlights the important works like *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*

" ... feminists who insits on a unified feminist subject not organized around race, class, and sexuality do so at their own risk, or, more succinctly, do so in opposition..."(page 22)

# Outline ctd.

## Performing Disidentifications

Any narrative that doesn't account for inclusivity is incomplete.

" ... difference has many shades any narrative of identification that does not account for the variables of race, class, and sexuality, as well as gender, is incomplete. (page 28)

Queer theory's contributions to discourse on cross identification

## Hybrid Lives/ Migrant Souls

What is a hybrid in identity's discourse? Who is the hybrid? Migrancy- in a sense can be seen as movement from a identity to another.

" ... negotiations that lead to hybrid identity formation are a traveling back and forth from different identity vectors'(page 32)

# Outline end/ Summary

## Marga's Life

This is the conclusion where Munoz brings the whole introduction home. This is written to bring light to the life of many who do not identify but disidentify. It is for a person who cannot confine themselves to a single discourse but float around the many different ones. This is written to show the contradictory but complementary nature of the life many live on a day to day basis.

# Quotes and Questions

" Identifying with an object, person, lifestyle, history, political ideology, religious orientation, and so on, means also simultaneously and partially counteridentifying , as well as only partially identifying with different aspects of the social and psychic world" (page 9).

" ... difference has many shades any narrative of identification that does not account for the variables of race, class, and sexuality, as well as gender, is incomplete. (page 28)

"Counteridentification, the attempt at dissolving or abolishing entrenched cultural formations ... "(page 14).

A definition eradicates the possibility to change. With this being said, would you define yourself into a single context ? Do you realize that you disidentify with certain social norms ?