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Body, Sexuality, Precarity

#### ABSTRACT

The body, sexuality and precarity  
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How does precarity, as social and individual condition, affect the body? How does it affect the perception of the body as our located self and its gendered and sexual physical support? In which degree do the transformations entailed in the process of casualization occurred recently in European countries affect self-representation of sexuality and sexual identity?

Evidently enough, as a material as well as symbolic phenomenon, precarity involves the sphere of self-perception and self-representation and that of emotions reshaping them anew. Notwithstanding the fact that only recently precarity has become a capital concept in defining some of the most crucial social transformations, the perception of the body and of the experiences that through the body one lives within space, segmented time and the infinite expansion of precariousness, seems to take on forms that often recall those of modern subalterns excluded from enjoying full citizenship's benefits and doomed to be "unstable", "nomad", "precarious" because of their social, sexual, colour-based status. What is new is that precarity comes now to affect those subjects whose identity has been defined as opposite to that of precarious subjects, namely the mainstream Ford-minded worker, and the whole surrounding social set-up.

In which ways, thus, is precarity affecting the body in a new way? In its transforming social behavior related to sexuality and sexual identity, could that condition be defined as a common condition? And if it is, as it were, could precarity become a commonality? Whose is that commonality?

This paper means to explore these issues through the suggestions made by feminist and GLBTQ groups and single activists at work in a FG held in Bologna (Italy) in late 2005, the current debate amongst those Italian groups and activists on the nexus among body, sexuality and precarity, and some of Italian and European feminist and queer political campaign and visual-art productions.