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Just as the label of "homosexual" is an invention of the Victorian era, would you say that the label of "obesity" is an invention of our time? Why do you think it was invented? Who benefits from this or what power relations are behind this label?

I'm not sure of the etymology of Obesity but I think you're right in that it's a concept that has become more prominent as anti-obesity rhetoric has also grown. I don't know why it was invented, but it may be related to how Foucault talks about the way people began to be categorised in the past, including gay people, disabled people, black people, working class people and others. Some theorists have suggested that this relates to the Enlightenment in Western culture, trying to rationalise the world, and also to the growth of capitalism and the industrial revolution, where people are required to become productive worker-citizens. I think these are plausible explanations. I see the naming of obesity by people who are not fat and who have vested professional and financial interests in appearing to eradicate obesity (because it can't be eradicated, it is part of humanity) as a form of colonisation too.

Do you think that a fat person seeking to loss weighs by all possible means - including barbaric surgery for stomach - and all those that show their support on this would be the equivalent of those who seek to heal and be cured of homosexuality?

My feeling is that this is needless surgery and that fatphobia and profit are at the root of why it is performed rather than any long-term health-giving properties. I also know people, really great people, who have chosen to have it, I understand people's reasons to undertake it are complicated, and I support everyone's right to do as they damn well please with their own bodies. I also think that support for people who have had surgery is terrible, and I am ashamed to be part of a movement where such people are sometimes shunned. I think there are probably points of connect between weight loss surgery as it is performed now and interventions that sought to cure people of their homosexuality, but I also think that these are different things, brought about by different circumstances in different periods of time and place. Perhaps someone reading this would like to write a paper or do a study on the two, I'd like to read that.

Have you seen Wall-E, the movie? It paints a very distant future where Earth has been destroyed by pollution and humans have evolved in obese people, unable to move. Basically, because they are always in front of a screen playing

videogames. What do you think about this? (After reading your blog, I think this is quite discriminative and I feel disgusted)

The representation of fat people in Wall-E is based on a present-day moral panic about obesity. I think that nobody knows what the future will bring, least of all some stupid Hollywood product. Look at Logan's Run and The Matrix. As for shitty representations of fat people, they're everywhere. Don't like them? Do something to change them.

When do you think that obesity is no longer a lifestyle and starts becoming a health problem? For thinness people seem to have a clear response: anorexia is not good and is not a lifestyle.

I don't understand what you mean when you describe obesity as a lifestyle, so I can't answer this question. Neither would I place fat and anorexia in opposition to each other, one is a kind of embodiment, the other is a behaviour; it is false to assume that people with anorexia or who starve themselves are always thin.

I think you're asking me to name a point at which fat impacts on one's health. I can't answer this because in order to talk about fat and health you need to consider environmental factors, for example, what is the impact of fat hatred on fat people's health? Or lifelong dieting? Or racism on fat people of colour, or sexism or homophobia? Fat is not a single identity. How can we ever know the correlation between fat and health where these things are not included in the data? I wish I knew how fat impacted my health, or anyone else's, but research data is flawed to say the least, it tends to have shitty methodology, dodgy samples, and is almost always funded by systems that have an interest in eradicating obesity. The other thing is, who am I to judge what is and what isn't healthy? Quality of life is a very subjective experience.

Would you promote obesity as a lifestyle? Reading about Fat Activism, I've noticed that the principal claim is the integration of fat people to society, with equal opportunities in all domains. Some LGTB people I know, argue that we are all potentially queer, and invite others to explore their sexuality. Would it be positive to explore with our weight? Are we all potentially fat?

Again, I have no idea what you mean about promoting obesity as a lifestyle. This question sounds very judgmental and fearful to me, similar to British politicians who were afraid of queer teachers 'promoting' homosexuality in the 1980s. I'm not really promoting anything, just trying to live my life in a way that is meaningful to me, and in which I can be happy. I'm not an evangelist, though some fat activists are. Are we all potentially fat? No. People come in all shapes and sizes.

A friend of my family used to be fat. He once went to the doctor. "If you want to see your children grow and meet your grandchildren, you have to lose weight immediately", doctor said. Now, he's an Iron Man. Believe me, he was really big and now he has an athletic body. Sure, he could die hit by a car any

Sunday, but health risks related to his fatness have virtually disappeared. What do you think about this man and his doctor?

I don't know. I don't know the people involved. The threat of dying before one's children is a cliché that has been used in the British press in the context of obesity epidemic rhetoric and moral panic, so I'm not sure that claim has much evidence to back it up. The doc was probably using their power for scare tactics because he or she can. I guess your family friend is now enjoying thin privilege where previously he was abjected, he has become assimilated into the normals, something that doesn't appeal to me at all. Weight loss is notoriously difficult to maintain in the long term, maybe come back and talk to me in five, ten, fifteen years when he's stopped competing and is as fat as a pig again. An alternative picture: your family friend says: "Fuck this shit", joins The Chubsters, finds out about fat activism, and burns down a diet clinic; camaraderie, a place to channel your rage, political consciousness, activism, fun, wild times, these are also good for you.

I've always been very thin. During my childhood it was difficult for my parents and family to accept it. They always assumed that there was something wrong with me and forced me to eat. I never gained weight, simply because I am a natural thin. I used to suffer during lunch time. How do you think parents should treat their fat children? Parents often worry about their kids health.

I'm sorry you had that experience, it sucks. It's tempting to say something like: "Don't be mean, just try and love your kids as they are" but I'm not a parent and have no plans to be, so it's hard to say. Having kids is hard, and so is being a kid. Also, kids and parents are part of wider culture which tends to be very anxious about body size, so I'd also say something like: "Don't be too hard on your folks, they can't help it, social change is what's really needed here."

I hate diets, but I like healthy eating habits. Are fatness and good eating habits irreconcilable? Drinking water will always be healthier than drinking Coke, that's a fact. But maybe it's just a prejudice and fatness is not necessary related to food. What do you think?

It depends what you mean by good or healthy eating habits. I don't know what all fat people eat, and if they are eating 'healthily'. I guess some people do and some people don't. In an ideal world we would all have access to fresh food that is ethically produced, and there would be no moral policing of how we eat. I don't think that fat is necessarily connected to how we eat, but it depends. I don't know why some fat people are fat. Mostly I don't care, in the same way I don't care about why I'm queer. I just am.

What daily benefit being fat brings you? Because I am so thin I can sneak into the tube easily. Being bisexual is easier for me to find a partner (well, not really, but my friends think that. It is an imaginary benefit). Tall people can take the cereal from the cupboard without a chair; short people won't be hit by a branch while walking through the woods. Black skin adapts better to warm

weather, Darwinists say. So, everything seems to have an advantage. What about fat?

The advantages of being fat! Oh god, there are so many. It's a great identity if you are interested in critiquing 21st century Western culture, it's a powerful platform for social change and activism. I really like being physically big and playing with monstrosity and non-normativity. Fat feels and looks good. Fat culture is very radical and has an incredible history that you will be a part of if you are an activist or a Fat Studies scholar. Nothing beats fat-queer-punk community for sheer badass good times.

Lately I've realized that most of worldwide famous actresses aren't gay or bisexual (let's forget Jodie Foster and rather I think of Natalie Portman). Does fat activism dream of a fat superstar? I do dream of a lesbian Penelope Cruz who doesn't play only lesbian roles.

Well, many people would claim Beth Ditto as a fat queer superstar icon. I love her too. I also love Divine, Edie Massey, La Saraghina, Glenn Marla, Big Mama Thornton, Murray Hill, Blunderwoman, TunTun and many many other fat performers. I also think worldwide fame is overrated, and that disinvesting in mainstream culture, doing it yourself, being your own icon, supporting local community is a lot more satisfying.

How do you feel about pornography featuring fat people? I hate lesbian porn for heterosexual men. Those women even have long nails!

Some of it's good, some of it's bad. The 90s zine FaT GiRL produced some of the most memorable fat queer porn I've ever seen, I still jerk off over some of that stuff. It was made by and for fat dykes. These days there are some alterna-porn sites that I like. I'm not interested in being some guy's fetish, though I wouldn't try and stop other people from doing that consensually.

I'm Mexican. In my country, a lot of people are fat because sugary meals and tortillas are cheaper and stop hunger faster. They also work at least 10 hour per day, even more, even six days a week, and do not have time for exercising. In this sense, they don't choose overweight or at least it isn't always a matter of genetics. What do you think?

I think you might do well to check your assumptions about why some people are fat. The line about sugary meals and tortillas and not exercising stinks not only of fatphobia but also of classism, and other kinds of prejudice too. Cut it out, have some compassion for people, stop being so thoughtlessly judgmental, it's offensive.

Why do you think fat activism was born in industrialised countries?

Judging by your previous question I think you're trying to get me to say something like: "Modern life is so shit, people live in ways that make them alienated from their

bodies and thus they eat shit and don't exercise, and thus become fat, and thus develop a weird political movement around this." Clearly I think this is untrue, and is based on the much-contested energy-balance model of fatness, ie that you're fat because you eat too much shit and don't exercise.

However, I think that the development of weight loss industries under capitalism contributes to why some people are fat, and a critique of these industries, and the medical-industrial-complex that profits from it in industrialised countries, is at the heart of much fat activism.

Also, I don't know if it was. I'm a white European Anglophone and don't have access to a global repository of information about fat activism. Fat activism that I know about is generally undocumented too, the literature around it is fragmented and patchy. So how can we really know where it originated? There are loads of fat people living in Pacific island communities, who's to say it didn't start there?

What I can talk about is the seam of fat activism that I'm currently researching, which emerged from the civil rights movement in the US in the 1960s and migrated to the UK and beyond through second and third wave feminism, and through queer politics and anarchism too. There is also a strong Bear culture which came out of gay liberation movements and sexual subcultures. And a straight sex/social scene too, which also relates to fetishism. Beyond that I'm not sure. Maybe these kinds of fat activism have developed in industrialised countries because these are also places where there are pre-existing social conditions that support it.

How do you integrate fat activism to your life?

It's everything.

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