
In her first book, *Gender Trouble*, Butler criticized gender performativity (i.e., compliant gender performances) as complicit in the strengthening of normative expectations regarding people’s intelligibility as male or female. Such acts lead to the exclusion of persons incapable of emulating norms that correspond to their anatomical sex. By dressing drag, one blurs gender distinctions thereby calling into question the ontological status of gender differences and allowing resignification of these differences. Yet some resignifications promote, rather than inhibit, exclusion. For example, “National Socialism” was a resignification of “socialism” adopted by Hitler’s political party—one used to promote exclusion of Jews, communists, etc. Since norms are necessary for people to understand each other, Butler argues that resignification is only justified for norms that serve to inhibit violence and broaden inclusivity.