

the maternal body within the terms of language, one that has the potential to disrupt, subvert and displace the paternal Law” – Judith Butler on Kristeva, ‘The Body Politics of Julia Kristeva’ (Winter 1998), p.108

- “Women must write through their bodies, they must invert the impregnable language that will wreck partitions, classes and rhetorics, regulations and codes, they must submerge, cut through get beyond the ultimate reserve-discourse, including the one that laughs at the very idea of pronouncing the word “silence,” the one that, aiming for the impossible, stops short before the word “impossible” and writes it as “the end” – Cixous, *The Laugh of the Medusa*

- “Submitted to discursive analysis, exposed in its historical mutations, demonstrated as a category available for positive and negative political appropriations, a category which feminism appeals to but in which it can also find itself caught. To argue that the category of “women” is politically neutral...is...a myth” – Jacqueline Rose, Review of Denise Riley’s *Am I That Name?* (Spring 1990), p.161

- “Historicise the category “women”” and recognise that “devotion, and exasperation with, this category is the inevitable framework within which feminist politics must fight itself out.”

- Queerness

- “Written on the Body” whatever the sex of its narrator, is a queer novel with a queer plot” – Susan S. Lanser
- Queer is “another discursive horizon, another way of thinking about the sexual” – Teresa de Lauretis
- Queerness aims to “stir up rather than solidify sexual and textual differences” – Marilyn R. Farwell

- The body

- “We’ve been turned away from our bodies, shamefully taught to ignore them, to strike them with that stupid sexual modesty; we’ve been made victims of the old fool’s game: each one will love the other sex. I’ll give you your body and you’ll give me mine” – Cixous, *The Laugh of the Medusa*
- “Far from a lament over the imprint of bodily decay, the mood of these interludes is poetic, even celebratory, of a body which, although diseased, is still desired, and still