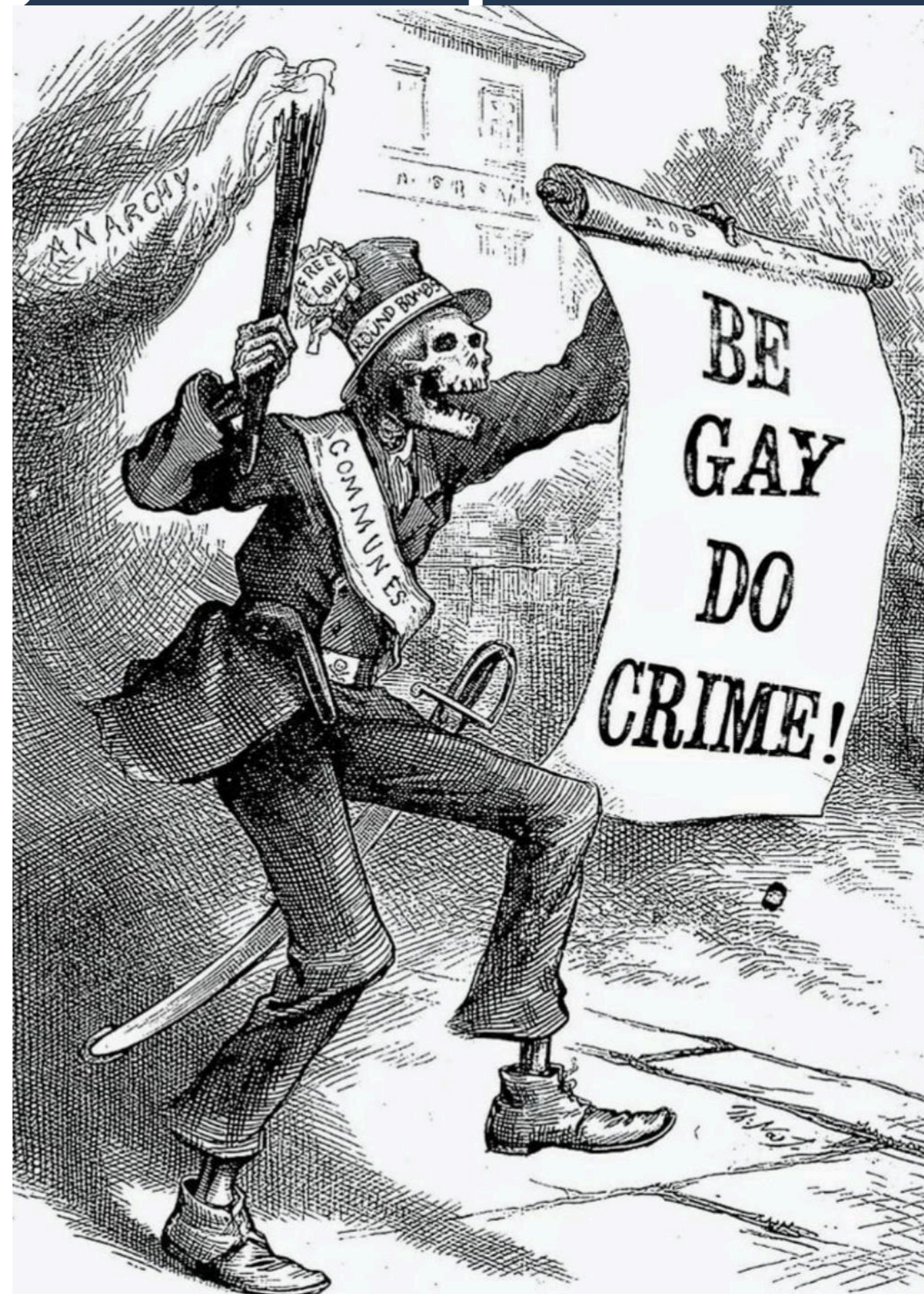


Queer theory



Queer theory



Queer theory (QT) “can be summarised as exploring the *oppressive power of dominant norms*, particularly those relating to sexuality, and the immiseration they cause to those who cannot, or do not wish to, live according to those norms. In analysing the power of ‘the normal’, QT contributes to a *politics and ethics of difference.*”

Nancy Harding (2011)

Harding, Nancy. 2011. “Queer Theory.” In *Key Concepts in Critical Management Studies*, edited by Mark Tadajewski, Pauline Maclaran, Elizabeth Parsons, and Martin Parker. 1 Oliver’s Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP United Kingdom: SAGE Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446289013>.

Queer theory in sociology

Interaction

- ∴ Emphasis on the social constructions of categories like gender and sexuality
- ∴ Dominant norms (heteronormativity) are negotiated and resisted in the day-to-day
- ∴ Importance of language & symbols in normative change



Conflict

- ∴ Normative categorical distinctions reinforce social inequalities
- ∴ Heteronormativity creates systemic oppression
- ∴ Active, organized, and persistent resistance is necessary to subvert normative structures

Stigma & deviance

- ∴ Sociology of deviance examines how societal norms are constructed and enforced, and how those labels are used to stigmatize individuals and groups
- ∴ Queer theory emphasizes active resistance to societal norms and values, particularly through the *defiance or flaunting of stigma*
- ∴ Queer theory offers a critical perspective on the construction and enforcement of societal norms, emphasizing the importance of promoting social change and inclusivity

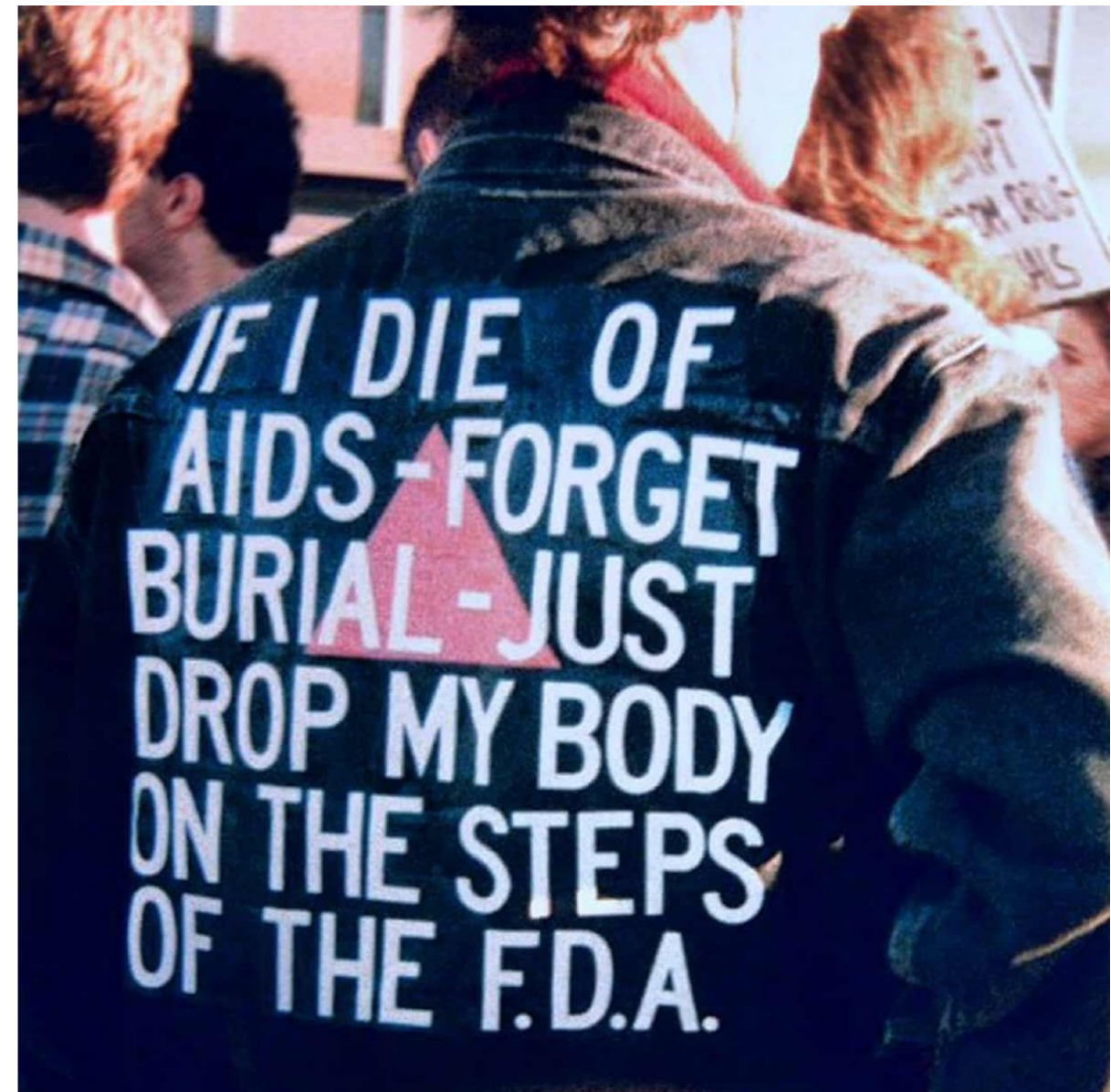
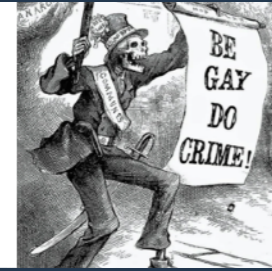
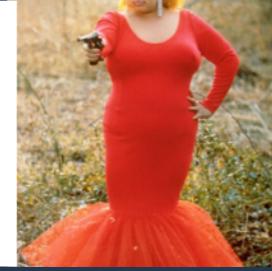


Image credit



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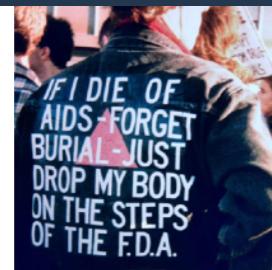
Still from [Pink Flamingos \(1972\)](#)



Photo by [Alexander Grey](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photograph: Fred W McDarrah/Getty, via [The Guardian](#)



David Wojnarowicz in 1988, via [The Guardian](#)