

## **B.A. thesis review**

### **Andrew Timothy Wilson: A New Subject(ion): Dark Transformations, Bodies and Affect in Online Erotic Hypnosis. Prague: Faculty of Humanities, 66 pages.**

The thesis by Andrew T. Wilson is an interesting and very novel inquiry into the field of erotic online hypnosis and the culture of digitally-mediated sexual experiences. Nonetheless, the research, but mostly the thesis itself, suffer from some essential weaknesses that I will focus on in the following review.

At the beginning, I would like to mention that I appreciate the subject of the research, as well as, student's courage and emotional maturity to conduct the study.

First and foremost – there is too much of everything in the thesis – to put it simply. It is almost unreadable, even for the academic audience. My overall expression, while reading it, was to use the Ockham's razor and cut almost half of it out. I do admire that student read a lot of literature and is able to work with, which is of a great value, yet in the case of discussed thesis it creates a multidisciplinary chaos. For instance, the theoretical and philosophical concepts (like those by Deluze) are used here as empirically studied categories that are tangible through the lenses of ethnographic research and semi-structured interviews. This kind of practice would require a very precise and detailed conceptualization and discussion of possible limitations of such approach, and of social sciences themselves. I also have doubts, whether a semi-structured interview is the proper way to examine the issue on subjectivity in online-offline social reality.

What I lack the most is the solemn research description and a proper methodological part. In the one that is included in the thesis there is too much theorizing, quoting various authors, without a proper and research-embedded discussion. It seems like author theorizes on each and every stage of the thesis and research (the same concerns the introduction which resemble an already theoretical chapter, not a proper introduction to a B.A. thesis).

What is more, the author sometimes falls into his own feelings or interpretations as a valid analytical tools, without applying broader methodological procedures, while working with the gathered material. This leads to overinterpretations to be found in a form of subjective judgements.

Last but not least, I would like to learn from the student *how the OEH affects and transforms subjectivity?* The conclusion part of the thesis focuses on the positive input and contributions of the conducted research, but what I lack there is an answer to the main research question. And positioning it in the broader academic discussion (no references to literature in the conclusion part that itself is short), regarding the issues of contemporary sexuality and intimacy, and changes of those in the era of easily accessible digital sexual experiences.

Despite the several concerns raised above, I recommend the thesis for a defense and suggest the grade 2 (taking into account student's exploratory and innovative, both topic and research).

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