Unknown pleasures: a multi-sited sensory ethnography in Electronic Dance Music clubs

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My research: A carnal sociology of clubbing

18 months multi-sited sensory ethnography in Electronic Dance Music clubs conducted both in Milan and Berlin.

The attempt is to develop a reflection able to overtake the lack of academic discourses about pleasure, given that all the activities done at EDM parties - listening music, dancing, having fun with friends, meeting new people, drinking and taking drugs - are directly linked to carnal and abstract pleasures.

I. Ontological level - *How to define pleasure!?*
Historical grounding

Enlightenment's validation of pleasure

Individual pleasure as a social project

Freud = **reality principle > pleasure principle**

individual wellbeing vs *civilization goals*

I. Ontological level - *How to define pleasure!?*
Sociological debate

Bauman's liquid society and homo eligens (1999)

> *make Freud great again*

Featherstone's calculated hedonism (1991)

> *rational calculation in emotional experiences*

Sassatelli's tamed hedonism (2001)

> *social regulation of pleasure*

I. Ontological level - *How to define pleasure!?*
Immanent pleasure

Foucault's pragmatics of pleasure (1975)

sex-desire VS bodies and pleasures

Preciado's pharmacopornographic regime (2008)

economy of excitation-frustration value

II. Epistemological level - *How to approach pleasure!?* ***Cartesian epistemology***

Science neglects pleasure (Bunton & Coveney, 2011)

      mind > body

Es. sociology of the body

      rational/textual > pre-reflective/non-linguistic

      concept/meaning > emotion/sensation

II. Epistemological level - *How to approach pleasure!?*
Post-Cartesian epistemology

Carnal sociology (Crossley 1994; Wacquant, 2005)

Merleau-Ponty's **body-subject**

More-than-representational theory (Lorimer, 2005)

III. Methodological level - *How to study pleasure!?*
Visceral method

Sensory participation

researcher's body

The body mapping technique

Metaphors

Poems