

**DUMB TYPE SYMPOSIUM – THE BIRTH OF NEW MEDIA DRAMATURGY**

-ABSTRACTS-

**THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2013**

9.00 A.M.-10.30 A.M. PANEL #4

**On the Issue of Foucault's "subjection" in *S/N* (1994)**

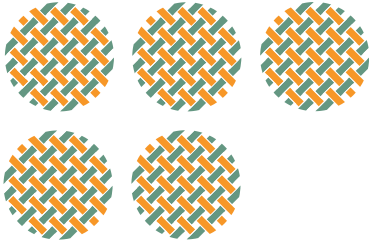
Keiko Takeda

This paper examines Dumb Type's *S/N* in light of the work of Michel Foucault and his theme of subjection. It considers Foucault's understanding of the nature of power as inscription leading to a principle of self-subjection as a commentary in and on the work of *S/N*.

**The Creation of *S/N* in the Context of the Debate about Sexuality in Early 1990s Japan**

Wim Lunsing

I became acquainted with the Dumb Type members at the beginning of 1992, while conducting fieldwork on sexuality and gender in Japan. It was a time of lively debate on sexuality. In particular male homosexuality was discussed in virtually all media and in many groups and organizations. In October of 1992 Teiji Furuhashi sent around his famous letter, stating to his friends that he was gay and had AIDS. I failed at first to note the enormous impact this was having, as so many people were investigating their sexuality and already openly talking about it. His request that Dumb Type members help him create *S/N* under his direction immediately led to many meetings in which people learned about sexuality and AIDS. Already in March 1993, the Seminar Show for *S/N* was staged, in which parts of the later performance of *S/N* were shown, interspersed with serious discussions of the issues. Most dumb type members themselves had never given these issues much consideration until Teiji's letter and went through a development towards better understanding. The discussions were engaged in by ever increasing numbers of people from the arts, students of all sorts, lesbian, gay



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and transgender people and so forth and further promoted when *S/N* was being staged. Through the discussions, communities were built to last a long time. Based on continuing fieldwork since 1992 and redeveloped in 2010 to take into account oral histories, this paper investigates how *S/N* impacted lives of many people.

**Dumb Type's Wonder Women: Corporeal Precarity and Medial Terror**

Katherine Mezur

This paper examines the diverse contributions of women members of Dumb Type. As dance performers, they were also integrated into an increasingly mediatized stage. This paper discusses the outcomes of interactivity and precarity in the relationship between body and media in Dumb Type's work.