

Jiann-Chyng Tu

Significant Discharge: the Money Shot, Masculinities, and Meaning

Given that seminal fluid is often considered the most valuable fluid of a man, its emergence on screen in hard-core pornography is seen as the narrative climax of a sexual number, as well as “evidence” of pleasure. In light of this, the so-called “money shot” then further symbolizes not only pleasure, but also power and desire. It is additionally often fetishized and transformed into a thing of worship in pornography—particularly its online variety—as seen in the emergence of the pornographic subgenre known as “cumpilation.”

In this presentation, I would like to explore notions of masculinities, meanings, and pleasures by posing the following questions: How does the money shot, as seen in gay and straight pornography, negotiate between the meanings and the significance of pleasure and masculinities? How have pornographic subgenres, such as cumpilation, further complicated and challenged the conventions of hard-core pornography in the age of xTube and Youporn? In attempting to shed light on these issues, I will address the structural, social, cultural, and economic implications of seminal fluid. I will also problematize the relationship between seminal fluid and pleasure with respect to issues of gender and sexuality.

Lastly, with consideration of the Jamesonian postmodern consumerist society in which the money shot is situated, I would also like to discuss the multiple meanings of the money shot and how it leads to the commodification and consumption of pleasure.

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, **Jiann-Chyng Tu** is an MA candidate in Amerikanistik at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He received his BA in German and English from Wake Forest University in 2008. His research interests include Narratology, Cybercultures, Visual Cultures, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Film Studies.