

***“I’m a he-she, that’s different”: Negotiating Queer  
Legibility in Leslie Feinberg’s Stone Butch Blues***

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The idea behind the concept of “gender incoherence” or “discontinuity” is that there are some individuals “[...] who appear to be persons but who fail to conform to the gendered norms of cultural intelligibility by which persons are defined” according to Judith Butler. This is the case with the main characters of Leslie Feinberg’s novel *Stone Butch Blues*, who simply do not fit into the binary gender categories imposed/enforced. Jess identifies neither as woman nor as man, s/he is a “he-she”, the very embodiment of gender incoherence. h/er character can be seen thus as an intersection of queer, transgender and transsexual subjectivities, illustrating the possibilities of extending the range of queer legibility. To say, for example, that h/er story is a queer narrative would be accurate, in terms, but also reductionist in others, whereas to indicate a coalitional alliance amongst other theoretical conceptions would be much more appropriate, as I intend to show in this paper.

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