

"What's Special about Sexual Orientation?"

Consider an individual who is exclusively attracted to short men. Embedded here is an apparent distinction between mere sexual dispositions (in this case, involving height) and sexual orientations (in this case, involving gender). But why should only a special category of sexual dispositions count as sexual orientations? In this paper, I argue that in contrast to mere sexual dispositions, sexual orientations maintain a shared social significance in relation to dominant kinship structures.