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Autor: Halperin, David M/ Traub, Valerie

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Ever since the 1969 Stonewall Riots, "gay pride" has been the rallying cry of the gay rights movement and the political force behind the emergence of the field of lesbian and gay studies. But has something been lost, forgotten, or buried beneath the drive to transform homosexuality from a perversion to a proud social identity? Have the political requirements of gay pride repressed discussion of the more uncomfortable or undignified aspects of homosexuality?

Gay Shame seeks to lift this unofficial ban on the investigation of homosexuality and shame by presenting critical work from the most vibrant frontier in contemporary queer studies. An esteemed list of contributors tackles a range of issues_questions of emotion, disreputable sexual histories, dissident gender identities, and embarrassing figures and moments in gay history_as they explore the possibility of reclaiming shame as a new, even productive, way to examine lesbian and gay culture.

Accompanied by a DVD collection of films, performances, and archival imagery, Gay Shame constitutes nothing less than a major redefinition and revitalization of the field.

David M. Halperin is the W. H. Auden Collegiate Professor of the History and Theory of Sexuality at the University of Michigan and the author of *How to Do the History of Homosexuality*, also published by the University of Chicago Press. Valerie Traub is professor of English and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan and the author of *The Renaissance of Lesbianism in Early Modern England*.