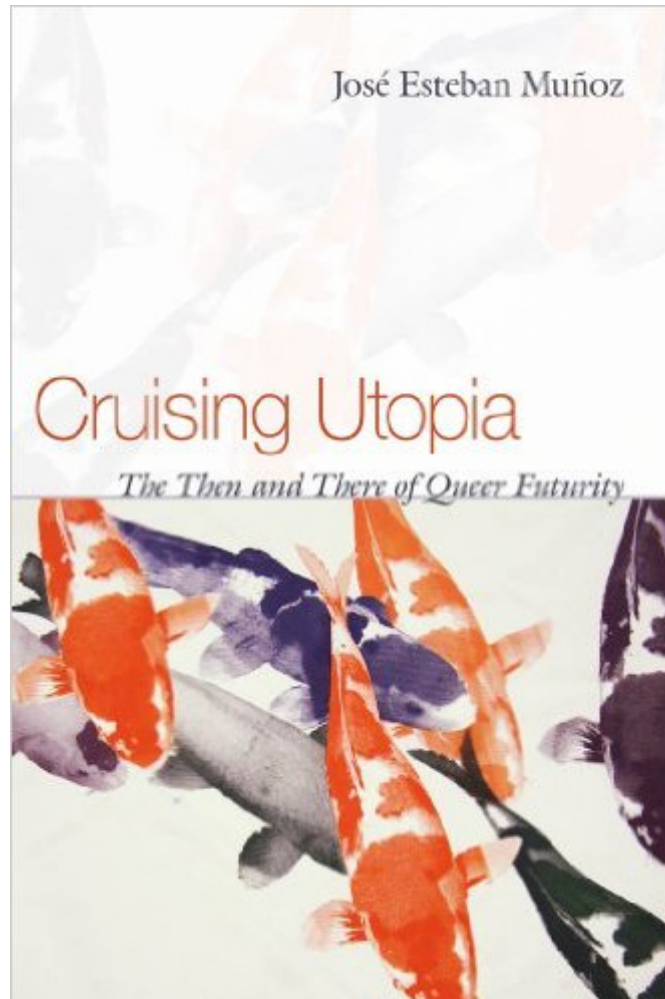


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# Cruising Utopia: The Then And There Of Queer Futurity (Sexual Cultures)



## Synopsis

The LGBT agenda for too long has been dominated by pragmatic issues like same-sex marriage and gays in the military. It has been stifled by this myopic focus on the present, which is short-sighted and assimilationist. *Cruising Utopia* seeks to break the present stagnancy by cruising ahead. Drawing on the work of Ernst Bloch, José Esteban Muñoz recalls the queer past for guidance in presaging its future. He considers the work of seminal artists and writers such as Andy Warhol, LeRoi Jones, Frank O'Hara, Ray Johnson, Fred Herko, Samuel Delany, and Elizabeth Bishop, alongside contemporary performance and visual artists like Dynasty Handbag, My Barbarian, Luke Dowd, Tony Just, and Kevin McCarty in order to decipher the anticipatory illumination of art and its uncanny ability to open windows to the future. In a startling repudiation of what the LGBT movement has held dear, Muñoz contends that queerness is instead a futurity bound phenomenon, a "not yet here" that critically engages pragmatic presentism. Part manifesto, part love-letter to the past and the future, *Cruising Utopia* argues that the here and now are not enough and issues an urgent call for the revivification of the queer political imagination.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this book makes a necessary and thoughtful contribution not just to queer studies, its most explicit disciplinary frame of reference, but also to interdisciplinary cultural studies more generally. munoz's two key moves are in ascending order of importance (1) the key privileging of underexamined theoretical texts rather than the canonic, equally applicable, but overcited work of foucault and

benjamin, who munoz notes in his introduction have been rendered almost too tailored to queer theory's concerns, and (2) to instill a sense of "hope" and "utopian futurity" or more simply "potential" in a discourse that's still being dominated by lee edelman's anti-relational pessimism. sure, kids and heteronormative reproduction are a kind of violence, munoz admits, but not one that elides or obfuscates the ability of queer theory and queer lives to create something fleshy, significant, and other than the pessimistic or scolding. a tour de force.

I used this book several times for my MA thesis, so it was definately an important part of my graduate experience. I do favor Dissidentifications, but this book has some fantastic subject matter and contributions to the field. I wanted it to be a bit more critical but nonetheless, it is an important resource from a beloved scholar.

This is a wonderful textbook for learning about the ideas in regard to queer theory. It was a wonderful tool in the classroom.

The material is very dense but extremely interesting reading.

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