

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/deviant-matter-ferment-intoxicants-jelly-rot/>

This video is a detailed exploration of the author's academic work, particularly focusing on food, biopower, and state power within the context of queer of color critique. The author delves into how the state's engagement with biological life—through managing food, drugs, and other substances—reflects broader questions of power and deviance. They draw on historical archives, examining the science of fermentation and its implications for health and state policy, particularly during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The author posits that various substances (like food, alcohol, and narcotics) embody unruly and unmanageable forms of matter that challenge state control and discipline. They categorize this exploration into three figures: fermentation, intoxication, and rot, which they view as interrelated concepts that signify deviance and resistance to state norms.

Additionally, the author discusses how concepts of hygiene and deviance interact, with hygiene representing a state-imposed order and control, while deviance symbolizes resistance and the power of alternative lived experiences. The work emphasizes a need for interdisciplinary approaches that honor the complexity and "wildness" of life and materiality, advocating for a method that listens to the voices and lives of objects, substances, and individuals rather than conforming strictly to disciplinary categories or state ideologies.

Ultimately, the text encourages readers to embrace methods of inquiry that respect the nature of their subjects, revealing the intertwined histories of science and state power and the resistance found within deviant forms of existence.