

[Series: Being right with... Monique Wittig](#)

Episode 4/5: Monique Wittig, politics: The straight mind



Today, we dive into the collection, "*The Straight mind*".

In 1978, Monique Wittig held a colloquium in the USA, concluding with "Lesbians are not women", a phrase that provoked much debate in lesbian and feminist activist circles. From this paper, she drew an article entitled "La pensée straight" (Straight thinking), which found its way into a 1992 collection of her political essays, written over several years and published under the title *The Straight Mind in the USA...* Nine years later, in 2001, and only two years before Wittig's death, Sam Bourcier translated the majority of the texts making up this collection, finally bringing Wittig's political thinking to the French public.

An essay teeming with ideas and theories that Monique Wittig has built up throughout her life, through her literary work and her political, lesbian and feminist activism, and which are set out in several chapters, from "The category of sex" to "One is not born a woman" to "The mark of gender". Each of these chapters blasts presuppositions we'd never think to question, and develops fascinating concepts, such as the "heterosexual social contract" that governs our societies. But what does Wittig mean by this heterosexual social contract she theorizes in the tradition of Rousseau's *Social Contract*, which aims to abolish our patriarchal societies based on heterosexuality?

We're joined by Natacha Chetcuti-Osorovitz, sociologist and anthropologist, lecturer and researcher on prison sociology, feminist epistemology and gender violence.

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