Sexuality, Difference and Representation

In this paper I explore the problem of representing difference in/of sexuality, with a particular focus on bisexuality. Lesbian and gay, and heterosexual desires are commonly represented through 'the couple', which indicates the sexuality of the subject through the gender of the object they desire. Such a register prioritises visibility as the primary register of desire, leaving little room for representation of sexuality and gender that falls out of view. This problem of representation is usually resolve in consideration of bisexuality by bringing 'threes' rather than couples into the picture. The threes are characterised by a gendered and racial as well as sexual 'mixing',
indicating the expansion of the audience's desiring register as well as that represented. But these representations have limited power to challenge the visual register of opposition that squeezes difference out of the frame, occupying an uncomfortable middle-ground. In the session I suggest other images and strageties for representing difference in/of sexuality, and not only for bisexuality.