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**A Semiotic Analysis of Recent Legal Struggles Regarding Homosexuality**

First coined and widely-used by Christian scholars in 11th century medieval Europe, the word "sodomy" was employed (though inconsistently) to signify a range of non-procreative sexual practices. The term became confused with "unnatural acts", which included a broader range of activities including those procreative acts not done in standard position and/or with the intention of contraception. The duality of these two phrases, the ambiguity of the signified with regards to the term "sodomy", and the broad range of the immediate interpretant with regards to the phrase "unnatural acts" has led to a legal struggle over homosexuality that, in recent history, has reached its peak. This paper seeks to trace and analyze the efforts of various judicial systems, with focus on the United Kingdom, the United States, and India, to crystallize the final interpretant from the different dynamical interpretants that exist for the representamen "sodomy" and "unnatural acts" with regards to legality and acceptability of homosexuality in society. It will also examine how the concept of the final interpretant is shaped in part by the semiotics and the object of the society that is attempting to define it, an object that in turn is shaped by different cultures, traditions, and values.

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