Homosexuality and war gnosis in Pat Barker's *Regeneration* Trilogy

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Most novels about WWI, whether written during or after the war, employ a heteronormative approach, and consequently do not allude to homosexuality, and if they do, the subject is only obliquely, or briefly and fairly dismissively, mentioned. During the war years, homosexuals were a vilified and persecuted group. Pat Barker's historical novels about shell-shocked soldiers during World War I features homosexuals prominently in the narrative, including Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. In Chapter 3 of my thesis I explore the significance of the foregrounding of homosexuality in a war novel. I am arguing that Barker's trilogy adopts a homonormative approach that makes homosexuality a major determinative in the explication of war and its meaning, and that the poets were very significantly led to their poetic attacks on war by the fact of their homosexuality and its social status.