

Frei, Dana

Challenging Heterosexism from the *Other* Point of View

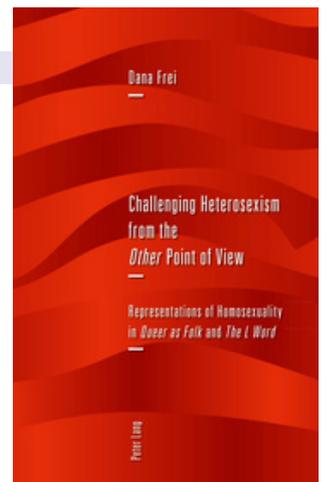
Representations of Homosexuality in *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word*

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Book synopsis

As opposed to many of their more reserved predecessors, modern television serials such as *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word*, which concentrate predominantly on queer characters, dare to include numerous highly controversial story lines, feature explicit sex scenes and reflect upon previously tabooed aspects in their depiction of homosexuality.

Challenging Heterosexism from the Other Point of View discusses how these specifically queer shows fulfill a function of challenging institutionalized attitudes of society, such as dichotomous notions of gender, heterosexism or homophobia. Moreover, the question is raised whether they also serve to do the opposite unintentionally, by reinforcing stereotypes and potentially creating a rather rigid image of the concept of homosexual identity. The complexity of the cultural impact suggested by these series defines the focal point of the qualitative content analysis of these innovative media products.

Contents

Contents: Queer Representation and Popular Media - Creating a Homonormative World - Representation of the *Others* - The New Order and Value System - Questioning Gender and Sexual Dichotomies - Stereotypes and the Mandate of Representation - Politics of Visibility.

About the author(s)/editor(s)

Dana Frei currently lectures on Popular Literature and Media Studies at the University of Zurich. She has earned her doctoral degree with her work on queer television series and has since changed her focus to the study of graphic novels. Apart from research, she also teaches English to adolescents and functions as co-editor of the online journal of youth media research *kids+media*.

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