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Research Statement

My research examines the representation of LGBT identity and experience in 20th and 21st -century American dramatic literature, as well as in American television programming. Employing Literary Criticism and New Historicism as central methodologies, I investigate the relationship between literary/staged/mediated representations of the LGBT community and America's LGBT rights movement and the ongoing social-cultural push for queer enfranchisement. A thesis that captures the essence of my research agenda is as follows: The emergence and development of LGBT characters, plot points, and themes in American theatre and television can be more fully understood when examined in relation to three dominant narrative types: anti-heroes, symbolic mergers, and what I call future-seekers. Further, the rhetorical purposes of plays, musicals, and television programs are more fully revealed when the cultural texts are read within the critical frameworks of queer, feminist, race, and crip theories.

In terms of critical theory, my scholarship rigorously incorporates queer theory; the work of José Esteban Muñoz, Jack Halberstam, and Lee Edelman have been invaluable. As necessitated by particular projects, feminist theory, critical race theory, crip theory, and—most recently—gerontology theory is also integrated. Because my research engages contemporary texts and hinges on literary criticism and theoretical analysis, it can be conducted on a nominal budget.

Research Interests

Theatre History and Dramatic Literature

- Areas of specialization:
 - 20th-century American
 - LGBT dramatic literature and performance

- Areas of interest:
 - Multi and intercultural adaptations of Greek and Roman Classics
 - The Avant-Garde
 - 19th-century Continental European
 - Early 20th-century Continental European

Theatre and Social Change

- Areas of specialization:
 - Queer Theory, LGBT dramatic literature and performance, and Autobiographical Performance
 - Gender Theory, LGBT dramatic literature and performance, and Autobiographical Performance
 - Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed
 - Artistic Citizenship (Elliot, et.al.)

Pedagogy

- Areas of specialization:
 - Democratic pedagogy
 - Holistic Teaching, Learning, and Advising
 - Transformational Learning
 - Embodied knowledge and experiential learning pedagogy
- Area of interest:
 - Anti-racist pedagogy
 - *NOTE: I am utterly committed to learning and honing this pedagogy.*