

MONSTROUS QUEER REPRESENTATION: FROM GOTHIC LITERATURE TO REACTIONARY BRITISH MEDIA

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1 Research Question

- How does literature demonize queerness through monstrous representations?
- To what extent do these monsters influence the contemporary politicization of LGBTQ+ identity in British reactionary media?

2 Methodology

- Literature review of Monster Theory
- Tracing literary iterations of the queer vampire
- Comparing vampiric representations to queerness in British media

3 Monster Theory

- Reading monsters as reflections of cultural anxieties
- Cultures create monsters to reinforce social norms
- Gothic literature established the vampire as embodiment of societal fear about queerness

VAMPIRES AS QUEER PARASITES

Draining

- Vampires' threat of draining vitality is used to represent queerness as a parasitic force draining the moral and physical health of society
- Reflects 19th century anxieties of queerness as an 'unnatural pathology'

Contagion

- Vampires spreading their curse is used to symbolize queerness as an infection corrupting people with 'deviant' sexuality
- Reflects 19th century fears of queerness destabilizing the social order

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5 THE QUEER VAMPIRE IN REACTIONARY MEDIA

Healthcare

- "NHS fights against ruling forcing it to hand out 'promiscuity pill' that prevents HIV" -Daily Mail
- Depicts queerness as a burden, draining resources
- Draws on the vampire's parasitic nature.

Democracy

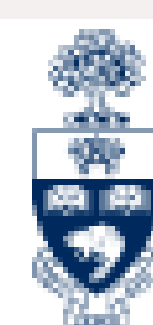
- "Trans Bigots Trying to Shut down Free Speech" -Express
- Portrays the transgender community as infection infiltrating democratic institutions
- Parallels the vampire's contagious threat

Families

- "Drag story-times are a hideous sexualisation of culture and sexualisation of children" -Express
- Frames queerness as predatory, draining societal values
- Parallels the vampire as a disruptive force in the familial unit

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