

Rebecca Bex Harper

**Does She Belong? Representing Queer Women
in German and British Film and Television since 2000**

My PhD thesis examines how the belonging and otherness of queer women has been constructed spatially and temporally in German and British film and television during the first decade of the twenty-first century. In order to explore the spatial and temporal representations of queer women, this thesis interrogates constructions of belonging and otherness in relation to various aspects of identity. *Heimat*, home, heritage, nationality, class, queer sexuality and gender are the key concepts under examination in this project.

My comparison between Germany and Britain is motivated by the striking distinction of the spatial and temporal representation of queer women. The German films in my corpus often interrogate the meaning of migration and border-crossings, alongside the notion of queer identity, and tend to do this in a contemporary setting. Hence, recent German film appears to construct concepts of nationality, gender and queer sexuality in response to globalization. The representation of queer women in German film in a contemporary transnational context strongly contrasts to the British films and television mini-series which, in terms of space, have almost exclusively represented the queer female characters in a national context. In this context, class and gender issues appear more important than an external other. Crucially, these films and mini-series are often set in Britain's past through the use of either historical film or costume drama genres.

In sum, this thesis compares the aesthetic production of British and German queer female identities, by exploring how the belonging and otherness of the queer female characters are represented spatially. In particular, I consider the binary of private and public space and the transcendence of national and regional boundaries. I also explore the representation of queer women in relation to temporal notions of belonging (such as heritage and roots) and the temporal setting of the narratives.

Bex Harper is a PhD candidate at The University of Nottingham. Her thesis explores spatial and temporal representations of queer women in contemporary German and British film and television. One of her main research interests is freaks and she previously completed a research MA titled 'Queer "Freaks" in the New German Cinema', focusing on Ottinger and

Fassbinder. She is also interested in how concepts of gender, sexuality and belonging are represented on-stage in English language and German language musicals.