

Susanne Jung

**Strategies of Queer Resilience in the Writings of Queer Theorists:
Foucault, Sedgwick, Butler**

Theorists of queer affect, such as Ann Cvetkovich and others, have for the past decade of queer theory been focusing mainly on the traumatic effects of hegemonic power structures on a given subject's internal experience. However, there has been a slight change of focus in both neuroscientific and psychological research in recent years, moving away from the concept of trauma and focusing instead on a given subject's strategies of resilience when dealing with challenging life experiences.

The concept of resilience describes a subject's ability to withstand, deal and cope with a challenging life experience by drawing on a range of internal and external resources available to the individual at a given point in time. Some individuals may be more resilient than others, but resiliency is also something which can be trained and learned. An individual may develop a range of strategies of resilience when dealing with stressful lifetime events.

This paper aims at making the concept of resilience available to queer literary and cultural studies, looking at strategies of resilience in the works of the 'founding mothers and fathers' of queer theory – Michel Foucault, Judith Butler and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. It is part of a larger project looking at strategies of queer resilience in contemporary English literary texts as an MA thesis and – as a subsequently larger project in the form of a PhD thesis – in both nineteenth and twentieth century literary texts. If the modern system of heteronormative power structures can be said to have been largely in place towards the middle of the nineteenth century, as Foucault and others have argued, one should also be able to assume that queer subjects have always had or have concurrently been developing strategies of resilience in order to deal with this challenge to their affective lives.

Susanne Jung is currently writing her MA thesis in English literature at the University of Tübingen. She has published articles on the cultural practice of fan fiction writing as a means of engaging queerly with popular cultural narratives, and also on contemporary queer postpornography. Her fields of interest include Gender Studies, Queer Studies, Performance Studies and Creative Writing. She holds a degree in Pharmacy also from the University of Tübingen. She is one of the co-founders of the Queere AStA Hochschulgruppe at the University of Tübingen.