

Jennifer Moos

Boy Bands, Girl Fans, and the Queering of Masculinity?

My presentation sets out to explore the queer potentialities inherent in boy band culture. Boy band culture had its heyday during the mid- and late 1990s when innumerable boy bands were casted in order to successfully conquer the music market. The boy band phenomenon might at first sight seem to have evolved around a very heteronormatively structured pattern of male performers on stage and screaming female fans in front of the stage. Drawing on the work of Judith Jack Halberstam (2005) and Gayle Wald (2002), I will challenge this notion and argue that boy band culture offers a space for alternative masculinities. In my analysis, I will primarily focus on (affective) responses to boy band culture which, for example, can be found in subcultural re-interpretations of songs like “I Want It That Way” by the *Backstreet Boys*.

Jennifer Moos, M.A., studied English Philology, Gender Studies and Linguistics in Freiburg, Manchester and Basel; has taught courses in feminist, gender, queer and literary as well as on cultural studies; works and teaches at the Department of British, North American and Anglophone Literatures and Cultures at Saarland University; PhD project on “The Pleasures of Sleeping, or: Towards a History of Sleep and Sleeplessness in U.S.-American Culture”; co-editor of *queere (t)ex(t)perimente* (2008); member of the editorial team of *Freiburger GeschlechterStudien*.