



Neo-Victorian Lesbians on Screen

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***Neo-Victorian Lesbians on Screen* examines how transmedia adaptations of the long nineteenth-century challenge historical representations of lesbians by revoicing their experiences and altering viewer perceptions, thus blending past and present in complex ways.**

In *Neo-Victorian Lesbians on Screen*, Maier and Friars argue that the on-screen portrayal of lesbians situated in the long nineteenth century across various countries is at the very least a dual task; the imperative project of revoicing lesbian silence and female companionship is complicated by the lack of and/or complex representation of such women in the past. The adaptations, with varying degrees of success, carefully manipulate the gaze of the viewer to illustrate both how crucial the act of looking proves to be for lesbian attachment in these films and how the viewer's own gaze changes the way the lesbian is represented. Maier and Friars consider the adaptations' awareness of the audience, and the ways in which the films implicitly acknowledge the stakes behind bringing the lesbian to life, as it were, in visual media. Because screen adaptations disrupt historical distance by literally picturing Victorian subjects via a medium they did not have, film adaptations of novels and biofictions, and original screenplays are challenged by the lesbian subject's vivid presence on screen. The lesbian is no longer a contained (neo)Victorian presence in the 'othered' nineteenth century, but her very existence on screen signals her effervescent modernity, which filmmakers alternately embrace or reject.

Readership

This book will be purchased by most college and university libraries; queer history and lesbian narratives, including film, are offered in most English, film and history departments as well as in programs of women's studies and feminism.

Key selling points

- Presents the first consideration on the recent proliferation of female-queered films centred in the long-nineteenth century
- Appeals widely to both the academic and greater communities

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

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