INTRO

Gender-based (or sexual, sexualized) violence is a RECURSIVE MOIOTE AND PERVERSIVE TROPE in US-American society, politics, and culture. In the age of new media, with its distinct means of distribution and participation, an often sensational interest in gender-based violence is voiced in a distinctly transmedial manner. With this PhD-project I aim to critically investigate the transmedial spread of representations of gender-based violence through an analysis of selected cultural artifacts across various media.

TRANSMEDIALITY = Umbrella term for a range of different purposes in different disciplines; foregrounds not only elements that transcend or transfer a single text such as interfactual reference, hybridity, or multiple-platform storytelling, it further encompasses the recipients’ abilities to actively participate in the practice of narrativization in what Jenkins calls a “participatory culture.”

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1) How are transmedial representations of gender-based violence used in contemporary US-American literature and culture in order to establish, question or reevaluate societal norms and regulate individual subject positions?

2) What kind of TRANSMEDIAL STRATEGIES are used in order to depict gender-based violence in contemporary literature and culture (in the US)?

3) How do transmedial strategies regulate the INTELLIGIBILITY of narratives dealing with gender-based violence? In how far are characters intelligible as victims, survivors, agents or perpetrators? How do texts arrive at many complex understandings of victims and agent that render both as viable subject positions?

4) To what extent and how does transmediality add to SUBVERSIVE POTENTIAL[S] in representations of gender-based violence?

AIMS

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

“The determinate given raw material of rape narratives [...] is not necessarily rape.” (Siele 3)

“The [... next to the judiciary, the network of taboos around sexual violence and its relevance for the collective is most notably addressed and negotiated in fiction.” (Koch 187, my translation)

METODOLOGY

- Case studies: selection of primary texts which will be analyzed in CLOSE READINGS
- Working concept: CULTURAL WORK (from American Studies, after Lauter and Tampkins)
- INFLUENTIAL KEY THEORIES:
  - transmediality (Jenkins)
  - feminist criticism (Butler, hooks)
  - intersectionally [Crenshaw]
  - symbolic violence (Bourdieu)

SELECTED CASE STUDIES

Our Story of Rape and Reconciliation (TED-Talk) and South of Forgiveness (Memoir by Elva and Stranger, 2016/17)

When They See Us (Netflix Mini-Series By Ava DuVernay, 2019)

PUBLICATIONS DURING THE PRE-DOC FUNDING PHASE


WORKS CITED