Abstract

This MA dissertation uses “queer theory” to read existing literary texts and to inform the writing of new fictional works. In the opening literary-critical essay, which functions as an introduction to queer theory, I give an overview of its development and conceptual formation, then go on to demonstrate how it may provide useful and fruitful readings of a writer such as William Burroughs.

The central and longest section of this dissertation is a group of short fictions that engage with queer theory, using some of its insights to generate investigations of sexuality, power, social relations, and to inspire formal experiments in keeping with the spirit of queer theory.

In conclusion, I look back upon this group of short fictional texts and link them to the issues raised in the essay on Burroughs and queer theory.

Keywords

queer
literary
theory
gender
sexuality
identity
gay
lesbian
Burroughs
Russell