

ABSTRACT

„WHO IS THE MONSTER AND WHO IS THE MAN?“

- Heteronormativity and Constructions of (sexual) Otherness in
Disney's animated feature films.

My project analyses heteronormativity and constructions of sexual Otherness in Disney's animated feature films from 1937-2013, tracing the development of these constructions and recurring tropes through three phases (1937-1967, 1989-1999, 2000-). Reading the films from a queer theoretical perspective, I explore their sexual politics, construction/s of heterosexuality, its naturalization and normalization as well as the functions of heteronormativity in the narratives, particularly focusing on how it intersects with gender and race. Thus, the project will generate new insight into constructions of gender and race in Disney films by viewing them through the lens of an analysis of heteronormativity. It argues that the centrality of the heteroromantic plot line (i.e. romance between hero and heroine) necessitates such a queer theoretical perspective in order to arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of the films and shed light on other aspects that are shaped by this heteronormative framework.