Queering the city: understanding global forces

Petra Doan∗1

1Florida State University – Florida, États-Unis

Résumé

Attempts to understand the mechanisms for queering spaces have been characterized by attempts to generalize from a single case. Too often the single case is drawn from the experiences of large and well studied North American or other "western" cities (often other northern European or Australian cities such as London, Manchester, Sydney, etc.). As a result of this generalization from particularity, the resulting models feel static, unilinear, and limited in scope to the experiences of dominant groups in the queer universe, typically white gay men. This paper seeks to develop a more global approach to understand the ways that queer spaces ebb and flow.

This paper uses the concepts of centripetal and centrifugal forces to describe the ways that spaces are influenced by social relations (in the Lefebvrian sense), but also that social relations are in turn shaped by those spaces. Examples of centripetal forces acting on queer spaces might be the level of intolerance in the wider society in contrast to the relatively more tolerant atmosphere of a neighborhood within a more progressive city. Examples of centrifugal forces might be rising rents in the traditional gayborhood that make it impossible for renters (as opposed to owners) to continue to reside in the center. The paper will examine a variety of centripetal and centrifugal forces that operate on queer spaces and produce not a unilinear development pattern (the Collins model), but a wide variety of outcomes.

This paper uses examples from Midtown (Atlanta, Georgia), Ybor City (Tampa, Florida), and Beyoglu (Istanbul, Turkey) to illustrate some of these features.


Mots-Clés: keynote

∗Intervenant