

## **Project Overview: Queer Interruptions**

**Title:** Queer Interruptions

**Project Link:** <https://queerinterruptions.com>

**Creator:** Dr Evangeline Aguas

**Medium:** Online documentary/website

**Running Time:** 41 minutes

**Released:** 2021

Queer Interruptions is an online documentary produced as part of my PhD research on fandom and queer time. With increasing media attention on the history of queer female deaths onscreen through the “Bury Your Gays” trope, this research explores the temporal dimensions of this dark screen history. Drawing on queer theory, the work examines the multitemporal experiences of queer female and genderqueer fans and how they inhabit queer time: how they deviate from heteronormative life timelines and experience a sense of delay in the present; how they exhibit an anachronistic turn backward to linger in the pain of queer history; and how their digital archive practices express the contradictions and ambivalences of non-linear time. I argue that these experiences of *temporal dislocation* uncover the seemingly innate and pervasive nature of heteronormative time and how it persists in our liberatory present.

As a form of alternative scholarship, the documentary seeks to address current methodological trends in queer theory research. Kath Browne and Catherine Nash (2010) describe how queer theory’s reliance on textualism rather than ethnography has resulted in a field detached from the lived experiences of its subjects. Responding to these methodological tensions, Queer Interruptions grounds abstract theory through ethnographic fieldwork and an affective method of presentation: documentary video presenting the fans in their own voices, in their own bodies, and in their own words. As an online documentary, the video content and website design capture the intangible, obscure, and inexplicable dimensions of queer fan experience, demonstrating how abstract queer temporalities take material form in complex and contradictory ways.

This online creative work also disseminates the research beyond the academic community, ensuring accessibility for international fan audiences and those with financial or privacy concerns. Through its subject content and design, the work appeals to a media-savvy and politically inclined online fan community focused on education, social justice, and solidarity-building. The work is primarily image-based, utilising streaming video and animation to align the project with the online fan community’s ethos and aesthetics. Further fostering the participatory ethic of online fan culture, the website’s non-linear navigation allows for interactive meaning-making as users make their own path through the documentary videos and interview quotes, creating their own narrative connections and appointing users as co-producers of meaning.

Queer Interruptions was a finalist in the Best Tertiary Documentary and Best Screen Production Research Moving Image Work categories at the 2022 ATOM Awards.