

Abstract:

In a 21st century networked world, queer and/or trans youth are harnessing digital, open-source platforms to “restory” dominant narratives of LGBTQ experience. Wattpad, one such platform, has proven particularly inviting for queer and/or trans youth, who drawing upon their lived experience, use that platforms digital affordances to reimagining mainstream LGBTQ literature intended for youth audiences. Providing pedagogical strategies for cultivate classroom activism, this presentation will demonstrate how one might cultivate critical “restorying practices”—both for one’s self and with one’s students—and will do so by drawing upon the storytelling experiences of queer and/or trans youth during a “*Love, Simon* Contest.” Directed towards more the cultivation of more empathetic futures, the presentation holds implications for teacher education, queer and/or trans studies, and for the study of youth cultures in the Digital Age.