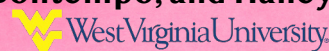


Sex Education of Our Own: A Content Analysis of Explicit Fanfiction

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BACKGROUND

Erotic fanfiction can be used as a form of secondary sex education (Albury, 2014) and sets expectations about sexual encounters and information about sexual health through its messaging (Parker, 2018).

Slash fanfiction is a powerful vehicle for gender identity and sexual orientation exploration (Antonioli, 2018). Around 80% of slash fiction writers identify as women (Wattpad, Fanfiction.net) and a survey of AO3 writers found that 89% were involved with M/M fandoms (LuLu, 2013).

Neville's work (2018) shows that women's affinity towards M/M erotica is rooted in their pleasure of objectifying male bodies and a rejection of sexual violence perpetuated against female bodies in traditional pornography-related industries. However, the content of this type of erotica has not been systematically explored.

This study is designed to conduct a quantitative content analysis of erotic fanfiction on Archive of Our Own (AO3) in order to identify common patterns in how messages about sex are communicated in this community.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What percentage of explicit fanfiction content:

- 1) depicts sexual consent?
- 2) depicts sexual orientation confusion or discovery?
- 3) features the use of sexual aids or contraception?
- 4) depicts taboos (e.g., incest or underage sex)?
- 5) is Slash (e.g., M/M or F/F)?



Human versus Nonhuman Sexual Encounters:

- Are they more or less realistic?
- Are they more or less violent?
- Are they more or less deviant?
- Are they more or less taboo?

How common are various sex acts in explicit fanfiction content?

EROTIC FAN FICTION SAMPLING

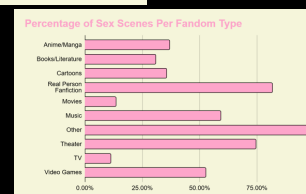
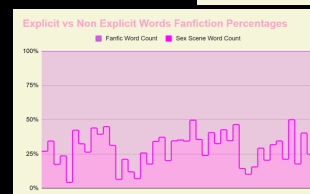
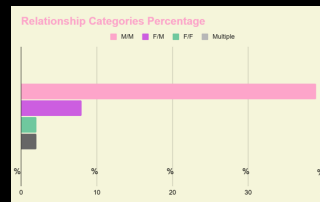
Fanfiction collections from AO3 which have an extensive tagging and filtering system and serves to provide access and preserve fan works. Fanfictions were sorted by "Explicit," written in English, and included the tag "first time." Multi-chapter fanfictions had one chapter selected by a random number generator. Fanfictions were read to identify sex scenes for coding, including 5 lines before and after the scene to ensure appropriate context for coding was gathered.

For More Information About AO3



Unit of Analysis: First sex scene from the chapter

Training Sample: 50 most popular fandoms and selected one fanfiction per fandom. Sex scenes were extracted from each fanfiction for coding. Training data consisted of 35 sex scenes, each coded by 3 individual coders. Final sample will consist of 250 scenes.



CODEBOOK

For Working Draft of Codebook



Coding Training Is Ongoing!

Acceptable reliabilities have been achieved for most nominal-level variables (e.g., different sex acts and character sexual orientation). However, the codebook has been edited to improve coder agreement on other variables (e.g., supernatural status and scaled variables).

PROGRESS & (Anecdotal) FINDINGS

- Preponderance of M/M relationship pairings and sex scenes, which is consistent with other findings in the literature.
- Several underage depictions and age discrepancies in relationships
- Consent is often given explicitly between characters before and during explicit sexual scenes.
- Omegaverse fictions are extremely common in the data.



References

