

## ***Queerness and Representation, Who Can Be Lesbian?***

Rena Baledi, Nioosha Shams

Nioosha: I am a student and writer for an online magazine so I've been writing quite a lot about these topics before.

Rena: I am a student. Unlike Nioosha, I have not been writing about these topics but I have been thinking about them a lot.

Nioosha: The name of our speech is queerness and representation. Who can be a lesbian and who gets to be a lesbian. Why not start with that question? Who gets to be a lesbian?

Rena: Spontaneously I think feels like a lesbian should be a lesbian but, my experience says another thing. A concrete example: when you are going to a gay club, it happens a lot, the guard outside stops you and says this is a gay club. "Don't waste your money if you are not a gay". While other people passing by and he is greeting them welcome!

Nioosha: I have this experience as well. One of the reasons might be like that as a not white person not to perceive as a queer person is that. We have so many norms of how to be a western person and there are so many norms how to be a not western person in a country like Sweden and being queer doesn't fit into that those norms. That is why so many people have trouble getting into their minds black or brown body can actually be breaking those norms in other senses than just as being around.

Rena: I totally agree. The things with these norms in the unconscious level you start to adapt to them and internalizing

What happens if that you try to find strategies to be perceived as queer or lesbian and that includes may be acting a little bit more middle class, acting a little bit whiter sometimes it is the same but and that also affects who you like or who you want to date.

Nioosha: So yeah, I know you before we go to a club or at least I feel immediately that I don't assume that personal color is queer, even though if I met queer club it is easier to see a white room ok she's probably a lesbian because she looks like this or she acts like this but it is so internalizing that even I feel like I just assumed straight away the color are not queer.

Rena: How you get perceived when you come out in white. Are you adopted or how does it feel to be free at last?

Nioosha: You said something about positive outcomes!

Rena: I love you! what I also noticed when you come out all of a sudden as a part of them, you agree with our Swedish values all of a sudden. You are a feminist. You see it so clear. their body language changes as soon as you come out.

Nioosha: Can it be good or is it just a few things when it happens?

Rena: I have to be honest sometimes it feels good, because sometimes it's an advantage for me.

Nioosha: For sure, You're surely been in a lot of white clear surroundings ever since I was a teenager and I don't know why I always saw myself as one of them until I started hanging out with people of color and queer and I realized there's so much more to get if we go back to the internalize it. I see if we were talking about the other aspect of our speech representation

history of the movies our supposed to reflect our society and when they filmed with that, they can have big consequences

Rena: At start I took my first positive experience of seeing good representation of ourselves in tv. first time I saw a film it was named: Carmon. It was the first time that I saw you can be a gay and not fight, when I was maybe 16 years old.

Nioosha: Yes I had seen quite a few lesbian films before I saw this film and I always felt like something else when I saw lesbian love story films than straight away ones but I remember going to cinema when I was 15 and seeing this movie circumstance was the name of film, It was a film about two Iranian girls fall in love with each other. It is very dark and sad, remember feeling the whole movie like physically in my body and I didn't understand what it was but it was the first time I saw myself represented like someone speaking my language in my culture. It could be just like me, that was important for me and building my identity, because I have always felt my Iranian identity and my lesbian identity can't go hand in hand, since there isn't a lot of positive representation. I have difficulty seeing my future those two parts intertwining but I also I wanted two them because they're equally be part of me so that was a important experience for me.

Rena: This thing so yeah and you have a bit of that right It is important people see the queerness who can be queer, especially when it comes to skattevarket,

Nioosha: Yes, I have some statistic from movies from 2016, 18% of the industry's top movies included queer character and 83% of these characters were homosexual man. If you look at these statistics ok 17 percent of LGBT character is pretty good but 14 percent of these character were background dancers in one scene in comedy movies. How many pubs are in the beginning of this year I saw a lot of new lesbian movies were coming out and I got excited to see them but then one of them has been shown in Swedish cinema that was only for a couple of weeks so we have very it's difficult for us to access all of these medias.

Rena: But I think that's why some people have realized that I was a gay I knew that they have this strange feeling but have never seen it before in a person of color being gay, it was like something is wrong and I don't know what until I start seeing people of color being gay. There was like ok. It is possible.

Nioosha: So, it's time for them do you feel like it's the same thing in real life if you're surrounded by people of color lesbian, or queer,

Rena: Another question so. When It comes to friend I don't make friend with people because of sexual oriental.

Nioosha: That's not to seem to be able to have a safe space like here today to talk about these things. No I think that you are out there and what do you mean I do like.

Rena: I think first of all I have to find a safe space like here today, so we can talk about information about Society and after that organize.

Nioosha: Yeah conversations and conversations that are open to link criticizing each other and criticizing ourselves, because a lot of the things we have been talking about today are internalized and a lot of them are in our unconscious so we need to discuss them different to and not to be afraid should look at those parts of myself as these kinds of things.

As you said Create safe spaces like this one we can find each other and build a stronger collective identity together.

OK Think you.