

Urban Futures Symposium | 21 – 25 August 2023

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School: School of Media and Communication

Presentation: Second Milestone Review

Title: Displacing Heterocentrism in Adaptation: Making New Space for Textural Queerness

Abstract:

This creative practice project explores how the act of adaptation can be a method for a queer praxis, through the resistance of the presumption of heterosexuality in that adaptation practice. Queer adaptation practice is done here through a creative-critical braided adaptation thesis of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* which uses minor character elaboration and alternative focalisation to explore the queer potential of the relationship between Elizabeth Lavenza and Justine Moritz. This practice will contrast with the male-focused and heteronormalising adaptation practices that typically shape *Frankenstein* adaptations, and which have through repetition across many adaptations led to the development of a *Frankenstein* culture-text which excludes both women and queerness. In this practice of re-visioning, queer is aligned with a sense of optimistic anticipation of a future which is not-yet-here described by José Esteban Muñoz, and is shaped by a reparative reading practice inspired by the work of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

