

## Intersectional Approaches – 3:50pm-4:20pm GMT

### **An intersectional approach of Octavia Butler's *Kindred*.**

**Abstract:** Through Butler's graphic comic *Kindred*, numerous tensions are raised around the notions of accessibility, disability, equality and inclusion exposing the crisis of black futures. My analysis focuses on the way that Dana's positioning as a queer subject is informed by race and disability. My analysis focuses on the way that disability informs Dana's experiences in the context of slavery and her positioning in the contemporary discourse of neo-liberalism. Very few scholars perceive Dana's subjectivity as an actual state of being that carries value both materially as well as metaphorically. The materiality of disability has not constituted part of the larger discourse of the American slave system. The different figurations of space and time exposed through Dana's time travelling help conceptualize her accessibility in different structures. Through rendering disability both figuratively and materially, I establish a connection between the past, the present and the future. The different figurations of space and time exposed through Dana's time travelling help conceptualize her accessibility in different structures. Previous scholarship has been extensively focusing on the origin and legacy of trauma, inflicted on the black female body of the twentieth century, however there has been too little, if any criticism in relation to the active construction of black female subjectivity, located at the level of the body. I wish to explore how spectacles of violence against black female bodies function in the wider political imagery of the twenty-first century. The physical and psychological displacement of Dana, as a black queer female body exposes her traumatization and the difficulties she faces in order to reclaim her subjectivity in a society burdened by a history of violence and exploitation. Even though *Kindred* was written before the black lives matter movement emerged, it could be analyzed in a way that asserts the continuity of African-American trauma, the perpetuation of systematic racism in USA and the crisis of blackness in the future.

**Bio:** Marietta Kosma is a first year DPhil student in English at the University of Oxford at Lady Margaret Hall. Her research interests lie in twentieth-century American literature, post colonialism and gender studies. Her research focuses on the construction of African American female identity in contemporary neo-slave narratives. She has written in a wide variety of journals and newspapers. She is a peer-reviewer and an editor for academic journals.

### **Intersectional Approaches with Race and/or Disability and Worldbuilding**

**Abstract:** My 15 minutes would start the conversation about the representation of relationships in the far future. I'm in the process of writing a generational ship narrative that

includes a 'thruple' and for this society, it's not considered anything remarkable. It's not remarked upon by anyone. Is that a general expectation of the future? What will be considered the 'norm'? Will an LGBTQIA+ designation be understood in the same way and if it isn't, what about the world that is built would be powering that change? Does creating a future in which labels no longer exist just brush over the struggles of now? Is it better or worse to imagine a future without it? How would humanity evolve when and if we are space dwellers? Is there such a thing as 'the perfect genetic make up' or what genetic iterations do we need to live on another planet? I would also want to consider the process of 'coming out'. For some, it's a massive moment and others don't see the need. What would a new rite of passage be for the community?

My 'thruple' consists of two men and a woman. One of the men is Black and that leads to questions of race in the LGBTQ community. How important is representation in this sphere and is SF the best place to start the debate because the future is fantastical enough to not lead to anger, while at the same time being familiar enough to inspire change? Is the representations due to a lack of diversity in the writer (and consumers of the genre) and if so, how do we build a world that inspires inclusivity now and in the future

I don't expect to come with or leave with any definitive answers, but I am curious to hear and share thoughts on the subject and also consider the role SF can play in shaping our world now and in the future.

**Bio:** My name is Samantha Dolan (she/her) and I'm a PhD student at Lancaster University. I'm devoted to my family and I am the Reviews Editor for Shoreline of Infinity, in Edinburgh. I'm obsessed with comics in TV and films, with a soft spot for the MCU, SG1 and Battlestar Galactica.