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**Mormon and queer – the depiction of “harnessed queerness” in Christina Lauren’s
*Autoboyography***

In last couple of years several popular motifs in YA literature have been connected to or even based on problems of identity and queerness. Numerous works have not only been published but also popularized in mainstream culture – for example, Becky Albertallis’ *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* which was turned into a movie, or *Dear Evan Hansen* by Steven Levenson which is a popular Broadway play. A number of queer characters have also been popularized or even inserted in adaptations of already published works, such as the most recent adaptation of *Anne of Green Gables*, as well as the TV series *Shadowhunters*, based on a book series by Cassandra Clare. In this presentation I will analyze the combination of motifs of queerness and religion in Christine Lauren’s *Autoboyography* from the perspective of genre theory, cognitive schemata appearing in particular genres, theory of young adult literature, and queer studies. Tanner, the openly bisexual protagonist of *Autoboyography* is confronted with the reality of a Mormon religious gender oppression while searching for his identity in the relationship with a closeted queer Mormon boy. Moreover, I will analyze the problem of whether this text was written in order to represent the community or rather as an answer to recent trends. Since *Autoboyography* as well as numerous other popular YA works were written by women, the question arises whether representations of young queer male in YA queer literature are true and realistic or just reimagined on the basis of other works belonging to the genre.

Keywords : young adult literature; queer literature; gender; identity; religion

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