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# ● QUEER SPACE in SCIENCE FICTION TV

TV Studies and Queer Studies

# ● SCI-FI AND QUEER BOTH QUESTION THE NORMAL

- In the 1960s, science fiction TV began, becoming popular with the show *Star Trek* due to its social commentary and science fiction elements
- As queer issues emerged in the mainstream, more sci-fi fans pushed for inclusion of queer characters and stories in the genre
- Science fiction TV is the perfect place to explore the non-normative, or the **queer**
- Never-ending possibilities for new and different worlds, technologies, and societies lend the genre an advantage to exhibiting queer space

# “ALIEN CRYPTOGRAPHIES” DEFINES QUEER AS NON-NORMATIVE



- defines “queer” as a deviation from normal
- queer texts are not created through LGBTQ+ characters
- establishes three ways that queerness can exist within science fiction

Pearson, 2008

## • QUEER SPACE EXISTS WITHIN SCIENCE FICTION TV, AS DO LGBTQ+ CHARACTERS

- *Dreams of a Subversive Future: queerness in science fiction film and TV*
  - duality of sci-fi → overt heteronormativity, but latent queer elements
- Other articles/posts
  - existing shows have been able to build queer space with or without LGBTQ+ characters

Wälivaara, 2016



HOW DOES SCIENCE FICTION  
TV CREATE QUEER SPACE,  
AND DOES IT RELY ON  
LGBTQ+ CHARACTERS?

# I WILL RESEARCH BOTH THEORY AND APPLICATION

define elements of queer space

discern which sci-fi elements can illuminate queer elements

watch & analyze the shows for sci-fi elements that exhibit queerness

define elements of science fiction

compilation of popular sci-fi TV both old and new



## MY FINDINGS WILL BE ANALYZED IN A PAPER

- introduction of queer theory and sci-fi
- background of existing works
- aspects of sci-fi and queer that highlight each other
- determination of what elements in sci-fi shows I watched helped to create queer space
- scope of contribution of LGBTQ+ characters

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**THANKS FOR LISTENING**