

Racial Renderings: The Homonationalist Imaginary of Quebec

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In contemporary Québec, Canada, debates over social values have exploded in the news, in social media, on the streets, and in everyday interactions. These debates are conditioned by the dominant history of Québec nationalism, sovereignty, and colonialism since the 1960s, and have centred around issues of immigration/citizenship and religion/secularism since then. Sexual politics, in particular, have become central to the development of these debates, serving as a strategy of racialization. The social discourses instigated by the government and mainstream queer organizations have followed narratives of sexual modernity, through which racial ‘others’ are imagined as sexually unadvanced in opposition to sexually modern citizens. Through critical discourse analysis, interviews and participant observation, this thesis explores the implications and motivations of the contemporary confluence of homosexuality with national governance in Québec, interrogates how the regulation of race persists through the espousing of sexual diversity discourses, and theorizes the formation of Québec’s homonationalist imaginary.