

## Conceptualising Queercide: A Quantitative Desktop Exploration of the Technical Frames Used in Online Repors of Lesbian Killings in South Africa

**Authors :** Marchant Van Der Schyff

**Abstract :** South Africa remains one of the most dangerous places for women - lesbians in particular - to live freely and safely, where a culture of patriarchy and a lack of socio-economic opportunity are ubiquitous throughout its communities. While the Internet has given a wider platform to provide insights to issues plaguing lesbians, very little information exists regarding the elements used in the construction of these online reports. This is not only due to the lack of language required to contextualise lesbian issues, but also persistent institutional and societal homophobia. This article describes the technical frames used in the online news reporting of four case studies of 'queercide'. Through using a thematic coding sheet, data was collected from 70 online articles purposively selected based on priori population characteristics. The study found technical elements, such as the length of online reports, credible sources used, 'code driven'-, and 'user driven' elements which were identified in the coded online articles. From the conclusions some clear trends emerged enabling the construction of a Venn-type diagram which present insights to how the murder of lesbians (referred to as 'queercide' in the article) is being reported on by online news media compared to the contemporary theoretical discussions on how these cases should be reported on.

**Keywords :** journalism, lesbian murder, queercide, technical frames, reporting, online

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