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Butch in the Sheets: Representatives of Masculine Women in Pornography

Abstract:

In this paper, I examine female masculinity through the lens of what I will refer to as dyke porn—pornography created by self-identified lesbians and queer women for others like them. While girl-on-girl scenes produced by and for men work to establish a framework for lesbian sexuality that is often radically different from what actually happens during queer sex, dyke porn provides a subversive counter performance that challenges the hetero porn power structure and the gender roles it promotes. I analyze a selection of scenes, both butch/femme and butch/butch, from various dyke porn productions, and I consider how butches perform masculinity in dyke porn, as well as how the discourse of dyke porn works to construct female masculinity. I also consider the ways in which butch performers in dyke porn employ strategies of resistance that counter hegemonic messages about gender and sexuality.