

Acknowledgements

It was in 2013 when I first learned about Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality*, about Judith Butler's theory on gender performativity and when I began to grasp the vast and controversial landscape of gender studies. Thenceforth I was hooked. I devoured not only theories, trying to catch up on a century of engaging thoughts, but also novels that had not been part of any standardised reading list I had thus far encountered. Sarah Waters' historical novels particularly caught my attention and I began to wonder how a history of silence and invisibility is retrieved and represented by a modern novelist whose own lived experiences are so vastly different from her characters and settings.

This book is the result of my journey to find answers to this and other questions regarding the development of a queer literary history as well as my attempt to broaden dominant knowledge of war, sexuality and gender roles. I could not have completed my work without the encouragement of Prof. Dr. Anna-Margaretha Horatschek who generously offered guidance and advice whenever needed. I also want to thank Laura Hair whose incredible patience and constructive criticism enabled me to continue working well beyond my limits. Whilst professional advice helps the shaping of one's work, emotional guidance keeps the spirit sound. I therefore want to thank my parents without whom I could not have written a single word: *Ihr habt immer an mich geglaubt. Danke.*

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