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**Fantastic Facilitations of Popular Culture: Queer Affect, Queer Female Forum, and Queer Nationalism**

Popular culture genres, such as TV serial drama, anime, or comics (manga), have long been dismissed as cheap entertainments whose only values reside in their being symptomatic of “problematic” (read: politically incorrect) fantasies. However, this panel sets out to argue that it is precisely the fantastic nature of these genres that enable them to open up alternative spaces for these “unwanted” desires: i.e. fantasy as the opposite end of politics is therefore also the site of opposition, albeit articulated paradoxically through what seem to be the most apolitical media. The three papers in this panel will substantiate this agenda through specific case studies: (1) the queer affects visualized in the US fantasy TV series *Buffy*, *Angel* and *The Mists of Avalon*; (2) the virtual queer space produced by the Japanese *yaoi* (Boy’s Love) genre; and (3) a queer perspective on nationalism facilitated by the Japanese anime *Hetalia*.