Kleinrath, Peter, Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt**,** Austria

‘It’s not death. It’s Six Feet Under’: An Autopsy of Dealing with Death in HBO’s Most Black-humorous Quality-TV-series

Quality-series are omnipresent in television’s current multi-channel system. They definitively represent a new field for contemporary Cultural Studies. One striking discourse that appears quite regularly in these new shows is the serial representation of death.

One quality-series has to be pointed out in this context because it has revolutionized television’s common dealing with death. I am talking about *Six Feet Under*. In Alan Ball’s hit-series death is not treated like a taboo but embedded in a fine network of narrative complexity, character development and new serial aesthetics. Our contemporary culture and society is focused and criticized here as well. *Six Feet Under* is one of those television series that have led the quality-TV-genre into a new golden age.

In this paper I will elaborate how *Six Feet Under*’s way of dealing with death contributes a lot to the series’ quality factor. Never before has death been more alive, more animated and closer to reality.