

Queer Theory

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<https://www.e-ir.info/2017/02/06/online-resources-queer-theory/>

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Queer theory offers a significant avenue through which to deconstruct and then reconstruct established IR concepts and theories. Stemming from various fields that transcend a narrow view of IR, queer research applies an interdisciplinary outlook to advance new critical perspectives on sexualities, gender and beyond. A single viewpoint in a field as diverse as IR would unnecessarily limit the range of scholarly viewpoints. It would also preclude a nuanced debate about the contents and forms of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) perspectives, queer scholarship and queer scholarly politics in IR. Due to these themes, and because of its diversity, it is difficult to define queer theory precisely. Indeed, a narrow definition of it would not be in line with queer theoretical tenets. Queer theory is not just confined to sexualities or sexual rights. It also questions established social, economic and political power relations – and critically interrogates notions of security. An excerpt from ‘Introducing Queer Theory’ in *International Relations Theory* (2017) by Markus Thiel.

More resources to help you engage with queer theory are listed below.

Interactive map introducing queer theory (web resource)

‘20 Must-Read Queer Theory Texts’ (web resource)

‘Queer theory and politics’ (web article)

Borderlands e-journal (2009) ‘Jacques Rancière on the Shores of Queer Theory’ (open access journal articles)

Michael O’Rourke ‘The Nows and Thens of Queer Theory’ (podcast)

Judith Butler ‘A Politics of the Street’ (video)