

2. Políticas, instituições e cidadania

OC - (22913) - UNDER THE CIS GAZE: THE PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO TRANS EXPERIENCES OF THE (HIGHLY POLITICIZED) ITALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER.

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In the last years trans persons have garnered greater visibility, a modicum of social acceptance and legal protection. This has also been facilitated by the media, with a trend toward more positive and pluralistic representations of trans persons. However, most of the existing literature agrees that the increase of trans media visibility has been marked by pervasive transnormative models that dictate how much to conceal/reveal, thus being pivotal in defining what is normal, acceptable, or desirable. This paper focuses on the representation of trans experiences in the Italian public TV RAI, which has always been affected by a strong political conditioning. Specifically, the analysis considers infotainment programs, a genre of television whose primary goal is providing spectators more information on social issues that have been narrowly framed in news media with the typical style of entertainment programs. This constitutes an insightful case study since in Italy gender norms remain hegemonic and trans persons suffer high levels of systemic oppression and victimization. Through a Critical Discourse Analysis of Italian TV infotainment programs, this paper identifies the discourses that work to fix trans experiences framing them in a form of recognition palatable to the cis gaze. The Italian public television system was found to be consistent with the law in force in the country which considers the trans experience as ontologically linked to suffering, a specific medical and psychological condition, marked by symptoms of emotional distress, requiring specific endocrinological, surgical, and psychological treatment. Our study show how Italian State television confirms the subordination of trans experiences by resorting to a storytelling that renders transition experience as invariably centered on suffering and emotional distress and constituting trans persons as others even when their experience was normalized within the gender binary system.

Palavras-chave : Trans experiences, Representations, Media, Italian TV, Transnormativity