

1. Género, feminismos e estudos sobre as mulheres

OC - (23140) - 'THERE IS BEAUTY IN THE WAY THAT I THINK.' EXPLORING AUTISTIC LIFE NARRATIVE IN THE CULTURAL WORK OF HANNAH GADSBY

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Representations of autism in popular media culture usually rely on stereotypes about autistic people rooted in the clinical discourse of pathology, thereby reproducing gendered, racialized and classed images of white, cis male exceptionalism. Furthermore, the dominant circulating narratives often ignore lived autistic experience and rather position autism either as a spectacle or as the enigmatic and unknowable other. Forms of personal narrative allow autistic people to 'story' autism in its many different forms and create a space of critical interrogation. Therefore, this article examines the cultural work of queer-feminist comedian and author Hannah Gadsby, who addresses their late-life diagnosis of autism in their stand-up comedy show *Douglas* (Netflix, 2020) and their recent memoir *Ten Steps to Nanette* (2022). By drawing on queer and feminist disability studies (Garland-Thomson 2011; Kafer 2013), critical autism studies (Yergeau 2018; McGrath 2017) and theories of life writing (Rose 2008; Gilmore and Marshall 2019), this article will analyse how Gadsby employs 'autistic life narrative' (Rose 2008) to tell their story in its tense relation to social and medical notions of normality as well as medical discourse of diagnosis. Gadsby's intersectional positioning as a genderqueer lesbian who has experienced excessive body shaming and survived sexual violence will form the analytical focus of the article.

By doing so, this paper argues that Gadsby's use of life narrative not only contributes to a more diverse representation of autistic lives, but also offers a critical interrogation of what is considered to be social normality.

Palavras-chave : critical autism studies, queer-feminist disability studies, life narrative, comedy