Essay Proposal 12.1.1, 12.1.2

Area of investigation, including title

How has reporting on queer issues developed alongside changes in LGBT+ legislation in Britain? I will look at the way mainstream media (newspapers, TV news, and magazines) reported on pivotal moments in LGBT+ legislation changes, and significant moments in LGBT+ history, as well as generalised press attitudes towards LGBT+ people/issues.

This report will look in detail at LGB and T history in Britain, including social historical content (impacts of Stonewall in Britain, lead up to legalisation of gay marriage, development of the trans pride movement) and changes in LGBT+ legislation (legalisation of gay marriage, anti-discrimination laws, development of the Gender Recognition Act).

I will then go and research mainstream media responses to these moments in history (how newspapers reacted: did it make headlines? Was there homophobic/transphobic pieces? Or impartial reporting? And how TV news channels reacted: was it a headline? Did they have 'experts' on to debate the issues?).

I intend to write this dissertation in chronological order, starting with the lead up to, and decriminalisation of homosexuality in Britain, and concluding with the proposed reform to the Gender Recognition Act.

In my conclusion I hope to have the ability to make a summary on how queer media has developed, citing examples of journalism that best show this development.

Intended Research

 Books = FLYNN, Paul (2018), Good As You, London, Ebury Press | BURNS, Christine (2018), Trans Britain: Our Journey from the Shadows, London, Unbound | DAWSON, Juno (2017), The Gender Games, London, John Murray Press | CLEWS, Colin (2017), Gay in the 80s, Leicester, Troubador Publishing

Who can I speak to?

• Patrick Kelleher – journalist that specialises in writing about LGBT+ issues

How this will help me

This will help as my FMP project is going to be based around queer identities in modern Britain, so the historical knowledge I learn about during this research will give me a base of historical context that I can rely on when sourcing FMP stories.

I also hope to pursue a career as a journalist that specialises in writing about LGBT+ issues, so having the knowledge and written skills I will gain during this project will enable me to showcase different examples of work I have created around the topic of LGBT+ issues.

This will also help me to better my understanding of the journalism industry; how it works, and how the industry overall is developing to fit modern Britain. Which will benefit me as I begin my career.