

Viral Hate: HomoTransphobic Discourses in the Context of Covid-19

Eva Nossem

Saarland University

Abstract

While anti-corona protests have led to the formation of unlikely alliances e.g. between far-right extremists, environmentalists, conspiracy theorists, etc., their demonstrations have offered a prolific environment for hate speech. I will outline some strategies of homotransphobic discourse which have emerged in the context of Covid-19 and analyze them according to Reisigl and Wodak's (2001: 93-95) Discourse Historical Approach. The main focus will be placed on nomination, predication, and argumentation. The historical contextualization of the analyzed statements and the highlighting of their interdiscursive relationships will help lay bare their embeddedness in larger right-wing homotransphobic discourses of scapegoating in pandemic times.

Eva Nossem is a graduate translator for German, English and Italian. She is the scientific coordinator of the "UniGR-Center for Border Studies" at Saarland University and an instructor in English linguistics. She is working on her PhD in Italian lexicography. Research interests: Linguistic Border Studies, Gender/Queer Studies, and Translation Studies.