

## FARKAS KINGA LIDIA

Amerikanisztika  
MA, 1. félév  
Debreceni Egyetem  
Bölcsészettudományi Kar

Témavezető:  
Dr. Pataki Éva  
adjunktus, DE BTK

# DRAWING DIVERSITY: REPRESENTATIONS OF QUEERNESS AND SEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT IN WEBTOONS

**Kulcsszavak:** sexuális identitás; webtoon; reprezentáció; identitás fejlődés

Different sexual identities are becoming more visible, not just in more traditional forms of media, such as books or films, but also in comic books, including webcomics. One sub-group of this newer form of media is called webtoon, and they are also becoming increasingly more mainstream. Originating in Asia, they have also found their way into Western society, making impacts in most of the world. This paper examines sexual identities in this type of comics, and how queer characters are (re) presented from multiple aspects. For this purpose, seven different series are to be used from the platform called Webtoon, as it is one of the biggest and most accessible ones. The series are, in alphabetical order, "Adventures of God," "BiLove," "Idiots Don't Catch Colds," "Nevermore," "Not So Shoujo Love Story," "Pink Sugar," and "The Doctors Are Out". After the theoretical background, where the aim is to clarify the definition of webtoons and to give a short description of sexual identity, appearance shall be investigated; how they conform to stereotypes and whether transgressions are committed, and if so, how and why. Next, the same shall be done to the behavioral aspects of the characters, in order to gain a deeper insight. Finally, sexual identity development and coming outs are considered, as they are a crucial part of the queer experience, and the depictions of these count tremendously towards the realism of said experience. I argue that webtoons favorably represent queerness, creating distinct characters but they are lacking somewhat in the accurate portrayal of sexual identity development and coming outs.