

J. K. Rowling and the TERF-Controversy

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Which celebrity and why? / Project Sketch

My project is about J. K. Rowling and the controversy she has caused about her person with her transphobic tweets. Rowling is a widely known person by many generations and it has a great impact when a person like her speaks up on a topic of matter of LGBTQIA+.

This is an important quote!

“The logic of a TERF is essentially that sex and gender are not only *not* socially constructed [...], but they are innate pre-determined biological factors that cannot change.”

Here's is what I analysed...

Rowling's statements perfectly mirror what the two quotes about TERFism explain: First of all, she states that sex is real and not constructed, which is what the first quote about TERFism states. Secondly, she tries to mask the transphobic aspects of her statements by putting them into a seemingly feminist/queer-friendly context. This is a phenomenon explained in the second quote about TERFism.

These are important contexts / the pictures I analysed etc.

Context: The dismissing of Maya Forstater from her employment at BBC after posting several transphobic comments.



This is another important quote!

“In the UK TERFism has been at the forefront of feminism for some years with TERF ideology melding into party politics for both conservative and liberal causes.”

These are my findings...

- Rowling's own sex/gender + her carrier play a role in how she as a person and her statements are perceived.
- The HP-series is an important instrument that a) is used by Rowling herself to amplify diversity and b) is used by critics to state the opposite.

This is yet another important quote!

„The spirit of cancel culture – holding people accountable for their actions – is lost when being cancelled means there is no opportunity for change nor space for growth.”

Here are some more findings and my conclusion!

- It is not to be argued that Rowling's statements are in fact transphobic, that she resembles a **Transgender Exclusionary Radical Feminist** and that she needs to be held accountable.
- **HOWEVER:** Keep the quote above in mind. Humans make mistakes and we should always have the chance to do better.

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