

# It is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and representation of LGBTQ characters on television sigue siendo invisible.

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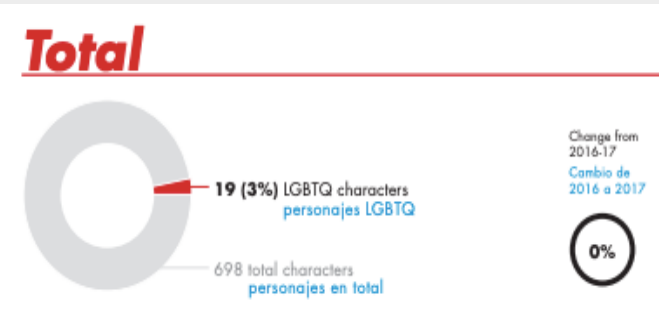


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## Introduction

There is an underrepresentation of Latinx, LGBTQ individuals in television programming. Many of the LGBTQ characters on television are portrayed in a negative light and perpetrate negative stereotypes. Through my research, I studied LGBTQ characters portrayed mainly in popular telenovelas and movies broadcasted on television networks in Spanish speaking countries. (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, USA). Understanding the impacts and influences of television on Latinx LGBTQ individuals will offer suggestions that ensure television broadcasting is inclusive and non-stereotypical

## LGBTQ characters represented in UniMas, Univision, and Telemundo



The shows representing Latinx LGBTQ characters faced microaggressions and were also sexualized and exoticized. This representation creates a culture where individuals do not feel safe nor free to comfortably come out.



One Day at a Time (2017)

Latinx LGBTQIA+ characters in television are still invisible and frequently poorly represented. Television networks use queerbaiting and pink fishing to create a perception of inclusivity and acceptance. The coming out stories of queer Latinx individuals in shows such as the L word and Glee associate Latinidad and queerness as intolerant and deter individuals from coming out.

## Conclusion

While there have been more Telenovelas and Movies that include Latinx, LGBTQ characters on television there is still room for improvement. Shows still represent LGBTQ characters in stereotypical mannerisms. Gay characters are always flamboyant and feminine (i.e., Rubi) and Lesbian characters are manly and butch. This is toxic because it continues to perpetrate a culture of toxic masculinity and builds a stigma around the LGBTQ community. The interview that I conducted, brought to light that the lack of representation on television transcribes onto real life. The lack of representation of LGBTQ characters doesn't allow for this community to be seen, heard, and understood by others. It is important for television networking to not only include more LGBTQ characters to normalize homosexuality but also producers should do extensive research and understand the harmful impacts of negatively portraying characters of the LGBTQ community.



Loreto, Rubi's gay best friend (Rubi, 2004)

## Research Question

How have television audience's perception of the Latinx, LGBTQ community been affected in Spanish speaking countries?

## Methods

In addition to my review of academic publications, I analyzed the behavior and amount of Latinx, LGBTQ characters represented in Spanish and English television. For example, famous shows and movies such as The L Words, Rubi Yo Amo a Juan Querandon, El Cielo de Los Ratones. I also conducted a phone interview with a Latina women part of the LGBTQ community. She spoke on her personal experiences and how television programming has impacted her self-perception.



"The lack of representation, of LGBTQ characters made me feel discriminated when I was in public with my girlfriend" – Andrea, 2021 Interview

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