Book Review

by Surya Monro, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy
Loughborough University
November 2026

Dr Kamran Qureshi's monograph, *Fiction Feature Filmmaking: Research and Practice in Screenwriting, Production, Distribution, Exhibition and Beyond* (Palgrave MacMillan 2026) offers a fresh approach to filmic representations of sensitive contemporary issues. It centres on the way that intersex people lack proper representation in English-language films. The book foregrounds the way sin which filmmaking can involve empowerment and knowledge generation, beyond the merely representational. Filmmaking as creative and generative research practice forms a central theme for the book, and the author develops an innovative framework for understanding this called 'Fictsearch'.

The book uses the film *Only Love Matters* as its focus, exploring the processes of making the film, the ethical and representational dilemmas that this process raised, and the opportunities for progressive and inclusive representation that it enabled. There is a pressing need for thoughtful and sympathetic representation of intersex people, and Qureshi's film was groundbreaking in this respect. The book reflects Dr Qureshi's' innovative transcendence of boundaries between film directorship and production, academia, and policy and practice. It also highlights some of the issues facing intersex people at a time of threats to diversity and equality.

Chapter one outlines the book as a multifaceted epistemological and cultural intervention, carefully setting out the various components of creative research practice. Chapter two addresses filmmaking as a means of research inquiry and offers a methodology of filmmaking that is theoretically grounded. Fictsearch, Qureshi's novel methodology, functions in a cyclic way including preparation via study, production, distribution, exhibiting and reflection. Chapter 3 examines current western anglophone representations of intersex people in film in an insightful, critical, and well-informed way. It includes recent offerings by intersex filmmakers that challenge the prevalent stereotypical, offensive and negative portrayals of intersex people within anglophone films. Chapter 4 zones in on the film *Only Love Matters,* discussing key issues such as collaboration with intersex people and processes of reflexivity. Chapter 6 drills down into the lived processes of creating the film, including practical details that will be of interest to filmmakers and students studying in fields such as cultural studies, the media and film studies. Chapters 6 and 7 focus on adverting, sales, distribution and related matters, providing both useful practical insights and a type of ethnography of work in this field. The final chapter reflects on the use of fiction features films as a research method that is both investigative and generative in its own right.

This book is to be recommended. It is engaging, informative, and original. Unusually, the book combines engagement with scholarly critical literature on intersex, key policy and legal materials, interesting graphics, creative research methods, cultural analysis and a strong grasp of anglophone intersex films. The book is also a great read and makes me eagerly anticipate future academic and cultural interventions by the award winning Dr Kamran Qureshi.

Surya Monro PhD, CMgr MCMI (she/her)
Professor of Sociology and Social Policy
#MyNameIs: Su-rea Mon-ro
Room U3.18, Brockington Building

School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Loughborough University

Coordinator of Intersex: New Interdisciplinary Approaches programme (INIA)
https://www.intersexnew.co.uk/

Latest book: https://www.routledge.com/Intersex-Variations-of-Sex-Characteristics-DSD-Critical-Approaches/Monro-Berry-Carpenter-Crocetti-Wall/p/book/9781032113791?srsltid=AfmBOooBno790OM-5zP6CXnVqN_g66W6HXCHfhrczP56a0dlSy9qjl-L

Latest lead-authored paper:
Monro, S., Wall, S.S., and Wood, K. (2023) 'Intersex Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Social Policy: Silences, absences, and erasures in Ireland and the UK', *Critical Social Policy,* https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/02610183231175055

Latest joint-authored papers:
Gramc, M., Monro, S., Stephenson, J. and Streuli, J. (2024) 'Psychosocial Support for Parents, Infants, Children, and Adolescents with Variations of Sex Characteristics: Results from a Pan-European Survey', *Behavioural Sciences* 14, https?//doi.org/10.3390/bs14090832

Crocetti, D., Berry, A. and Monro, S. (2023) 'Navigating Complexities of Adult Healthcare for Individuals with Variations of Sex Characteristics: From paediatric emergencies to a sense of abandonment', *Culture, Health and Sexuality,* https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2023.2208194

Latest editorial**:** Crocetti, D., Garland, F., Griffiths, D.A., Monro, S., Ní Mhuirthile, T., Roen, K., Singh, P., and Suess-Schwend, A., (2024) Editorial Introduction to Centring Intersex Issues: Global and Local Dimensions' *Social Sciences* https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/13/11/602

Latest reports:
https://intersexnew.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/D20-eReport-on-Intersex-policymaking-in-the-EU_reduced.pdf
Intersex, Variations of Sex Characteristics, and DSD: The Need for Change
http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/33535/