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# **RHETORIC AND FICTIONS OF AIDS**

MASTER OF ARTS (RESEARCH) THESIS

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## **Abstract**

This thesis insists that it is rhetoric and fictions that construct perceptions of HIV and the AIDS body. It examines cultural production that followed the identification and naming of the virus and attempts a queer reading of the significations of this cultural response to AIDS, mainly in Australia, particularly in the period from 1987 to 1995 and events stemming from this time. The thesis finds useful in this critique the critical approaches of theorists including Adorno, Benjamin, Derrida, and Deleuze and Guattari. The thesis especially focuses on how this rhetoric and these fictions interacted, supplemented and sometimes challenged already existing discourses of biomedicine, bodies and sexual praxis.