



Forbidden Desires and Killer Sex Robots: Exploring the Limits of Posthuman Counter-Heteronormative Possibilities in Eloghosa Osunde's *Vagabonds!* (2022)

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Abstract

Over the decades, the ever-expanding discourse on posthumanism and its striking potentiality in interrogating the inelastic binaries embodied by humanism has fostered emerging dialogues on the complicated relationship between the human and the non-human. In the age of a proliferation of 'posts', posthumanism stands out as a beacon of stupefying multiplicities, overcoming Braidotti's (2013) nature-culture binary (p. 3). The proposed paper will trace the parallelisms that underscore the exclusionary politics of humanism and heteronormativity while simultaneously exploring the limits of posthuman counter-heteronormative possibilities via a critical reading of a short narrative in Eloghosa Osunde's novel-in-stories *Vagabonds!* (2022). Osunde's narrative seems to provide an unpalatable answer to Braidotti's (2013) question, "where does the posthuman condition leave humanity?" (p. 3). The choice for the paper's analytical study will shed light on what Braidotti (2013) has called the "inhuman(e) moments" of the posthuman predicament (p. 9). The paper will reveal how Osunde's portrayal of a closeted gay man's ill-fated sexual intimacy with sex robots who have supposedly been imposed with the moniker of cis-male gay lovers provides an unsettling take on the posthuman fallout.

Keywords: Posthuman, Counter-Heteronormative, Binary, Homosexuality, Sex Robots.