

(Dis)Enfranchised Intersectionalities: Undocumented Migrant Women and Lesbian Relationships in Angelina Maccarone's *Unveiled* and Shahar Rozen's *Round Trip*

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This article compares the representation of lesbian undocumented women and their relationship with citizen women while highlighting the shifting intersectionalities of vulnerable migrants. Cinematic representations of vulnerable migrations have the potential to reduce distance and create an intimacy and immediacy that makes difficult the task to comfortably accept that people are only members of nameless, faceless groups. Films can, however, also reaffirm stereotypical tropes of victimization and lack of agency through simplifying the migrant experience. The two films discussed here represent different examples of how cinema can be a productive or a reductive means to visualize the largely invisible experience of being lesbian and undocumented. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2017 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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Refugee Jannat arrived in New York City expecting the freedom to live openly as a lesbian woman, a liberating contrast to the dangers she had to negotiate in her home country of Iran.² She was no stranger to intersecting marginalization given her doubled vulnerability as a woman and a lesbian in Iran. However, she was not prepared for the different set of challenges she would encounter in the United States: "I've been told

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² The Iranian Penal Code considers lesbian sexual acts a crime, punishable by lashing and flogging. Furthermore, according to a 2016 human rights report on lesbians in Iran by OutRight Action International, "[lesbians] face arbitrary arrest and detention, and they suffer further human rights violations at the hand of police while in detention, ranging from homophobic assaults to physical torture" (3).