Sharon Sutherland, Rowan Meredith, and Darsey Meredith: Raising Slayers: Buffy the Vampire Slayer through a Generational Lens

Academics, popular culture commentators, and individual fans have written countless articles and blog posts on the enormous impacts of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* on popular culture, television's willingness to grapple with social issues in meaningful ways, and individual world views. We plan to examine many of those assertions of influence through our own family lens – an autobiographical framework across two generations.

Sharon watched *BtVS* from the first episode's first broadcast. So too did her twin daughters, Rowan and Darsey. Rowan and Darsey, however, had a very different experience of the series given that they started watching at the age of two. Nonetheless, *BtVS* rapidly became weekly family night viewing – the one show that could not be missed. It was not long, of course, before engagement with the show required considerable family discussion of many topics that might not have arisen had Rowan and Darsey been satisfied with *Barney and Friends*.

Over the years, the girls kept up with the weekly episodes, but engaged in numerous rewatches of the entire series – developing entirely new perspectives on the show, its characters, and even new understandings of storylines. This deepening and changing understanding of the show over time has led both to develop a continuing interest in critical studies of media more generally and has fueled ambitions in each to engage in different forms social justice work as a career.

We will explore several specific areas in which *BtVS* is lauded as a critical cultural influence and explore how childhoods immersed in the Buffyverse lend support to many commentators' assertions. Topics we will consider include representation of gender roles, the normalization of queer identities, and conscious ethical decision-making.

Williams, Alex and Srnicek, Nick. 'Accelerate: Manifesto for an Accelerationist Politics.' *Critical Legal Thinking*. May 2013.