

## The Potentialities and Limits of Mobility in Queer Latinx Narratives for Adolescent Readers

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Often associated with ideals of freedom and autonomy, mobility has been linked to narratives of progress and emancipation for marginalized folk. For instance, the relationship between space and movement was central in increasing the participation of women in the public sphere during the 19th-20th centuries. Figures that emerged during this time, such as the flâneur, became central in connecting mobility to queer practices, in that they identified unexpected avenues of kinship and connectivity through their aimless meanderings in cities. Mobility has traditionally been approached as an act of political resistance with the potential to undermine dominant practices and ideologies. The emancipatory associations between mobility and identity have become increasingly prevalent in stories focused on queer Latinx adolescents, since many of these narratives present freedom of movement as a queer and countercultural remedy to the oppressive frameworks associated with domestic and normative spaces. Through the examination of novels such as Justin Torres' *We the Animals*, Benjamin Alire Sáenz's *Aristotle and Dante*, and Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End*, this paper will explore the double-bind of mobility in queer Latinx narratives. On one hand, this discussion will demonstrate how mobility provides queer Latinx adolescents with the means to contest ideologies of stasis and normativity, and offers them opportunities to make unexpected connections with other ways of existing in the world. On the other hand, this discussion will also consider mobility as a form of stasis or conservatism, in that it emphasizes the inability for certain spaces to accommodate queer Latinx being—thus framing mobility not as a form of freedom, but as a form of exile.