Gender conventions: homosexual eroticism and family liaisons in Anne Rice and Neil Jordan's *Interview with the Vampire*

GENDER CONVENTIONS: HOMOSEXUAL EROTISM AND FAMILY LIAISONS IN ANNE RICE AND NEIL JORDAN'S INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE

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Summary/Abstract: Hailed by many critics as the second most popular writer of vampire fiction after Bram Stoker, Anne Rice moved past the framework and clichés that Dracula imposed and expanded the vampire legend, altering it to fit the needs of our contemporary society. Although her vampires are similar to the Transylvanian count, in that they can be destroyed by sunlight, and they sleep in their coffins, one important trait differentiates them from Stoker's eponymous character. They are active parts of modern society, and, unlike their predecessors, they are no longer reclusive beings that hide in cemeteries or ruined castles, being integrated into a family. The paper is an investigation of the nuclear family in Anne Rice's novel *Interview with the Vampire* and Neil Jordan's 1994 film adaptation with a view to highlight the vampire's
polymorphous sexuality as rendered in the two media, the literary and the cinematographic one.