Part Three: Queer Nations
In a text that launched a widespread discussion in postcolonial studies in 1986, Fredric Jameson argued for the specificity of ‘third world’ literary (and, by extension, cinematic) texts with regard to the ratio and the relationship between the personal and the political. In an admittedly cursory comparison, he claimed that instead of the radical gap that exists in the first world between the private and the public, the poetic and the political, sexuality and the sphere of politics and economics, in third world national cultures, the libidinal and the political are inseparably tied together—a bond that makes all third world cultural products inevitably allegorical (Jameson 77).

Jameson’s ‘provocation’ has catalyzed a debate about postcolonial allegory, which has become acknowledged as “an especially charged site for the discursive manifestations of what is at heart a form of cultural struggle” in a world of postcoloniality (Slemon 11–12). It has led to explorations of similarity and exchange between ‘third’ and ‘first world’ allegories (Shohat and Stam 271). Since then, it has become evident not only that postcolonial allegories represent a variety of forms and purposes, but also that there has been an aesthetic shift in postcolonial cultures from the teleological, Marxist-inflected allegories of earlier, immediate post-Independence phases of nationhood to a more self-deconstructive, postmodernist use of allegory (Shohat and Stam 271). In post-independence national cultures allegory was initially called upon to legitimize the sacredness and unity of new nations. However, as Reda Bensmaia argues drawing on Homi Bhabha’s work, the division between the pedagogical and performative functions of allegory has become increasingly apparent in more recent postcolonial literary and cinematic texts, which acknowledge the crisis of the hermeneutic stability of national history and national allegory. As a result, it is no longer possible to read third world allegories as “self-righteous and predetermined