

Viera Novakova

Women in US TV Series

I would like to present a project outlining of my PhD thesis that I am currently working on. This thesis deals with representations of gender identities in contemporary American popular culture, particularly in contemporary American television series. In my analysis, I am focusing on female characters and the way in which their gender identities are presented. I have decided to analyze television series because of the higher periodicity of broadcast of TV series compared to movies. Therefore, the perception of these characters is possibly more evolved than those of movie characters. Since all of the analyzed television series have more than 3 seasons, there is a high possibility of a better development of chosen characters.

In my thesis I will analyze female character in the following television series: *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *CSI: Miami*, *CSI: New York*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Sex and the City*, *Ugly Betty*, *The L Word*, *Bones* and *Grey's Anatomy*. The thesis is divided into several chapters dealing with different television characters. I am focusing on female character in leading or top executive positions, female characters that work for the Police force or the Army and female characters in the world of media. A whole chapter is dedicated to the depiction of women as sexual predators since this topic is still relatively frowned upon in contemporary society. Another part of the thesis will deal with presentation of GLBTQI characters as most of the television series I analyze include at least one of such characters. I am interested in the ways in which the queerness of these characters is presented on screen.

Viera Novakova has studied at the Faculty of Arts at the Prešov University in Prešov majoring in British and American studies. After graduation she started teaching at the Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences at the Prešov University. Since October 2009 she has been teaching at the Department of British and American studies at the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. In her academic work and study she concentrates on American politics and culture, Gender Studies and Queer Studies.