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Caroline Heldman, Rebecca Bargiachi

The Media Reader on Representations of Race, Gender, Disability, Body Size, Age, and Sexuality

SERIES IN CRITICAL MEDIA STUDIES

In this meticulously researched volume, Heldman and Bargiachi deliver a comprehensive and uniquely-useful compendium of the available quantitative and qualitative findings on underrepresented groups in film and television. Including chapters on race, gender, ability, body size, age, and sexuality, the reader documents the recent historical quantitative records of representation, including the percentages of individuals appearing on screen, awards received, and screen time when available. The book also offers insightful qualitative analyses of the portrayals of these groups. Anyone with an interest in representation—including students, teachers, scholars, and those working in the industries—will find this reader to be an incredibly useful and well-organized tool.

Dr. Martha Lauzen
San Diego State University

Summary

This reader is the first comprehensive look at representations of race, gender, disability, body size, age, and sexuality in US entertainment media. The “bible” of media representation, it weaves contemporary media examples together with quantitative data and qualitative case studies in a way that is accessible to students, industry insiders, and media advocates. Using over twenty publicly available reports and datasets, the authors provide the most detailed picture to date of how different groups have historically been erased and misrepresented in film and television. This book should be on the shelf of every person who seeks to understand the significance of media inclusion for the advancement of traditionally marginalized groups in the US.

Summary

Caroline Heldman is a political scientist and Chair of Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies at Occidental College in Los Angeles. She has published eight books on media, politics, and systems of power. She has two decades of experience in media research and advocacy with the industry, and previously served as Executive Director of The Representation Project and Vice President of Research & Insights for the Geena Davis Institute for Gender in Media. Her research has been published in the top journals in her field, and her work featured in the ‘New York Times’, ‘Washington Post’, ‘Hollywood Reporter’, ‘Variety’, ‘The Atlantic’, and other major publications. She is a regular media commentator for CNN and Spectrum News.

Rebecca Cooper has worked as a professional media researcher for over a decade. She is currently the Research Director for The Representation Project and was the Senior Project Manager for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. Rebecca also worked as a researcher for Agenda for Children in New Orleans and served as Director of the Lower Ninth Ward Living Museum, a neighborhood museum and oral history archive. She was a researcher for the Mossville Oral History Project at Louisiana State University and her research has been featured in the ‘Oral History Review’, the ‘Contemporary Justice Review’, and ‘US News & World Report’.

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