

Title:	The Change in Gender Representation in Superhero Movies of the Last Decade
Name:	Wong Wing Tuen Emily
Supervisor:	Professor Eddie Tay

Abstract

In the past decade, there has been rising awareness and recognition towards gender equality, where more international organizations are paying attention to gender issues and representation, by taking part in and leading the initiatives to foster females' values and rights.

Meanwhile, the movie industry does make changes to gender representations of both male and female in character portrayals. Movies have been an influential medium for delivering ideologies and cultural concepts. Often, movies have the ability to affect human behaviors, where people could learn new cultural information and habits through the movies' settings and character portrayals. By examining superheroes movies could better reflect the change in gender representation as gender stereotypes such as strength and power, intelligence, inequalities are being heightened.

In the last decade, the superhero genre has changed the depiction of female characters by demonstrating their tech-intelligence and capabilities in STEM, showing their leadership skills and producing female-led movies. There are also significant changes in male characters, where their developments challenge the concept of traditional masculinity with soft boy personalities, by being more expressive in emotions and weaknesses, being more dependent in team businesses, and being more family-oriented.

Therefore, in this paper, the change in gender representation of last decade's superheroes genre will be discussed through the changes in both female and male character portrayals and the societal reasons that led to such changes.

Reflection

I believe this capstone project has best concluded what I have gained as an English Major in CUHK, being able to critically see how literature relates to our societies and how it shapes our own personal identities. This capstone project has given me a great opportunity to appreciate the current development of gender representations in movies, and also to explore what else could be done to better improve the gender situation in our reality.

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