
Synopsis:
Caputi argued that while OITNB does represent marginalized women’s stories, which might be seen as progressive, the show also filters these stories through Piper’s whiteness and privilege. Piper is featured as “your best friend. Or your daughter”, marking her a character the audience should sympathize with (p. 1133). Her whiteness and class privilege are contrasted with what Caputi called “otherness” which characterizes anyone who goes “against the norm” through their identity (p. 1133). She also noted that while the show features the stories of Black, Hispanic, poor,mentally ill, trans, and lesbian women, the series is not always sympathetic to or clear about how society treats these women and how they end up in prison. Caputi mentioned how the prison industrial complex in the United States puts in place systems of power that benefit economically off of the incarceration of individuals, they typically exhibit the idea of “otherness” in our society (p. 1134). Caputi also noted that the series minimizes the effect sexual violence and coercion can have on the mental health of women in the prison system and on their incarceration in general.

Key Concepts
- **Whiteness:** the lens in which the show, *Orange is the New Black* is written around, and is a way in which silenced voices of marginalized identities have been mediated in order to cater to a “mainstream” audience (p. 1133).
- **Intersecting injustices:** pertaining to one’s identity in relation to race/ethnicity, class, sex, sexuality, and gender expression and how these parts of a person’s identity could contribute to his/her/their negative experiences in the world (p. 1132).
- **Stereotypes:** typically, associations or assumptions made about part of a person’s identity, and they are typically negative because you are making an assumption about a person based off of a physical characteristic (p. 1134).

Key Quotes
- “But OITNB instead offers simplified stories “mediated through whiteness” and scripted through a frame of valorized “personal responsibility,” obscuring the complex experiences of coercion, not choice, produced by “lack of resources and structural arrangements”’ (p. 1140).
- “However, by mediating the “Other” women’s stories in ways that sidestep intersectional injustices; by distorting and denying the crushing results of men’s sexual, psychological and physical abuses in the lives of imprisoned women; and by so firmly installing Piper as the center, OITNB continues many of the stereotypes and canards on which the prison industrial complex rests” (p. 1148).
- “Against that “good girl” norm, “Others” are differentiated and defined as exploitable, expendable, ugly, deviant, deficient, dumb, dirty, mad, bad, and guilty” (p. 1134).

Essential Question
- How might this series contribute to positive representations of diversity?