

## **Gender/Sexism Case Studies – Fall 2017 MCJ 175, Media Stereotypes**

### **The Problem with Timberlake's Delusion**

**By Michael Martinez**

Ever since the announcement of pop singer Justin Timberlake's slot in the Super Bowl LII halftime show, many have expressed outrage over his lack of responsibility for his actions during the last time he was invited as a guest at the Super Bowl. He allowed his former collaborator, Janet Jackson, to take the full blame for a technical mishap during their [2004](#) performance.

Following the performance, Timberlake has been [cunning](#) with his interpretation and explanation of what happened that night. What he has failed to realize after all these years is how he has been able to continue to succeed and fail when it comes to understanding race relations in America. Timberlake has been granted many privileges, from his [color blindness](#) to his success with cultural tourism and his [culturally appropriated music](#). Many are starting to realize that Timberlake needs a hard lesson in reality to see the injustices that were placed onto Jackson from getting the full blame for her exposed breast.

According to Cristine Emba of The Washington Post, white privilege "[\[i\]s the level of societal advantage that comes with being seen as the norm in America, automatically conferred irrespective of wealth, gender or other factors](#)". Due to Timberlake's failure of defending his former colleague, we have witnessed misogynoir take place at Jackson's expense. A couple of things for certain, Timberlake needs to stop playing the fool and take initiative in acknowledging what really happened while also use his privilege to start a dialogue with addressing this issue on race and sexism.

To Learn more about white privilege and misogynoir please click on the following links:

White Privilege: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN9mwhSrTdU>

Misogynoir : <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/oct/05/what-is-misogynoir>

### **Mothers Defending Sons Acused of Rape**

**by Jamie Ponce**

As issues of sexual assault and harassment find a new voice in media, so do the various opinions and views represented throughout newspapers, Twitter, and Facebook. This [article](#) 'Willing to Do Everything,' Mothers Defend Sons Accused of Sexual Assault", exemplifies a few of the issues of media representation of men and rape. The article is about a group of mothers whose sons have been accused of rape while enrolled in college. Their organization goes by the name of FACE, or Families Advocating for Campus Equality. These women feel that their sons have been wrongly accused and they attempt to give some narrative of the accused. They are fighting for that are less strict punishment laws and their criminal records to be hidden from future employers.

One of the mothers on record says, "In my generation, what these girls are going through was never considered assault. It was considered, I was stupid and got embarrassed." This claim represents one view of cultural responses to non-consensual sex. It exemplifies

victim shaming and makes this issue of rape the girls' fault completely. Another mother claims, "We don't really need to teach our sons not to rape". These quotes exemplify the mass cultural idea that boys do not need to be educated on consensual sex and they are not responsible for what happens with a girl that drinks too much.

As a whole, the United States is openly discussing the issue of rape but this article, 'Willing to Do Everything,' Mothers Defend Sons Accused of Sexual Assault", seems to take a step back into the wrong direction. Shows like ["13 Reasons Why"](#) begin to rise up the fight advocating for rape victims themselves as they speak out against their accusers. They are now allowed to share their stories with the public and will no longer be silenced. With issues like Harvey Weinstein and many more, we are beginning to see a new cultural stance on rape and sexual harassment from women. This stance being that we will as a country and as women no longer silence the voices of the victims and take down men who take advantage of women.

Other ways people are bringing awareness to sexual harassment is through campaigns such as the [Me Too movement](#) on Twitter and the [#ItsOnUs](#) hashtag on Instagram. Celebrities with a large platform and thousands of followers are beginning to bring life to this revolt against sexual harassment. Instead of hiding and continuing to see rape victims and women of sexual assault as a pariah, we can now shed light and see these women as survivors. Let us change the old, outdated views that the mothers in this article bring to light and continue the empowerment of the survivors. One way we can do this is to continue the action of sexual harassment awareness through social media, personal experience, word of mouth, and by joining educational organizations who aim to teach our youth. This in return will empower the voice of the violated and will begin a new revolution against sexual harassment, whether against men or women and where it is at no matter if in the workplace or on a college campus.

## **Gendered Expectations by Jacqueline Blanco**

Recently, McKayla Maroney made a surprising [statement](#): During the time she won her silver and gold medals, Larry Nassar, the U.S. Gymnastics doctor, sexually abused her. Maroney's claim came after dozens of women had claimed that Nassar had acted in sexual misconduct. Rachael Denhollander, another USA Gymnast, claimed that she was also sexually abused by him on multiple occasions (Stapelton, 2017). It is important to recognize that not only did Maroney, now 21, state that this began when she was only 13, but it also came after multiple other gymnasts revealed themselves as victims. The hegemony of this being societally constructed expectations of gender, is that she took so long to come out about the sexual abuse. Maroney only did so after she felt comfortable from others revealing their encounters. Nassar represents the masculine hegemony of this as he, as the abuser, embodies a dominant man who views himself as inferior. The hegemonic nature of this is that Maroney took something that happened to her, and an immense amount of time to speak about it. This is due to the situation being something that is continually happening within society.

In a nutshell hegemony, in relation to gender, is based on gender roles brought about within a certain culture of society. Hegemony is used to describe the dominance of [patriarchy](#); "the control men have and have had over women and society" (Donaldson, 2013), thus displaying the act and functioning of hegemony within society. Hegemony, in this context, is based on the idea that certain stereotypes are what most expect and consider 'normal'. So, think of the stereotypes that you often expect of men and women. These frameworks create hegemony or the creation of these stereotypes leading to certain behaviors. When speaking of

sexual abuse, men are assumed as the oppressors, not the victims. Although this is not always the case, this is what most consider to be 'normal' or expected. Thus, when females are victims, it becomes taken as something they are not supposed to speak out against. Most women can often feel as though they deserve this abuse, or that it is what is typical and normal as they are the females.

Nassar is just one of many continuing to build upon the hegemonic nature of men as Aly Raisman, former Gymnastics Gold Medalist, and more than one-hundred young women have also claimed themselves as victims of Nassar.

## **Now, Girls Can Be Boy Scouts** **By Bineet Kaur**

It was announced on October 11, 2017 that [the Boy Scouts will now allow girls to join their organization](#). Upon hearing about this, some might question the necessity. Until recently, the Boy Scouts were, by definition, discriminatory by gender. But young girls can be Girl Scouts, after all.

Are the Boy Scouts seeking to be more progressive and diverse? That's a relatively straightforward explanation that many might believe that The Boy Scouts have had a rocky relationship with inclusivity. It's explained in the article "[How Will the Boy Scouts' Decision Affect the Girl Scouts?](#)" that that the organization didn't begin to allow "open and avowed homosexuals" to hold leadership positions until 2015. In addition, the Boy Scouts have banned atheists and agnostics from joining.

It is worth noting that the Boy Scouts are now allowing girls to be members when just three years ago, a gay male could have been denied membership. How does an organization become so progressive in such a relatively short span of time?

Tammy Proctor, who wrote a book about the Girl Scouts titled *Scouting for Girls: A Century of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts*, was asked about the Boy Scouts' decision. Proctor stated in the article "[Why Did the Boy Scouts Decide to Accept Girls?](#)" that she feels "the Boy Scouts are under pressure because they're losing members. They're under pressure to do something new and look for new members in a broader way."

Perhaps it's inclusivity. Perhaps, it's just business. The Boy Scouts' decision makes sense, given the current climate towards social progression and social justice.

In the past few years, some feel that there has been a shift in the way members of minority groups like the LGBT community, women, and people of color have been treated and represented in media. Some use pejoratives like "political correctness" or "social justice warriors" to characterize it. But whatever it's called - it's happening.

Television shows and movies now face more pressure to be racially diverse, or else their audience will critique them - as seen with the trending hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. Same sex marriage is now legal nationwide, and some television shows even feature LGBT characters. And more and more, conversations about the issues plaguing women are entering the mainstream - including the hashtag #MeToo.

The time to be socially reformative is now - and the Boy Scouts are doing that. The reasoning behind it, however, is not clear. For more:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/11/us/boy-scouts-will-allow-girls-to-join/index.html>
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/10/how-will-the-boy-scouts-decision-affect-the-girl-scouts/543204/>
3. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/10/why-did-the-boy-scouts-decide-to-accept-girls/542769/>

## **R. Kelly Is Holding Women Against Their Will In A “Cult”** **By Yocelyn Rodriguez**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, a young teenage girl was excited to start her music career. The 19-year-old believed that to get her career started she would be able to perform at talent shows and record demos. Soon after speaking with R. Kelly about possibly getting her career started, he flew her to a concert in Atlanta, knowing that her father knew about past sexual accusations against R. Kelly. Though the teenage girl's father knew about R. Kelly's past sexual accusations, he didn't think it was a big deal (DeRogatis).

Two years later the 19-year old's father and mother were worried sick about their daughter. They soon found out that she was living with R. Kelly at his home in Atlanta. The last time her parents saw their daughter was on December 2016, as her father stated, “It was as if she was brainwashed. [She] looked like a prisoner — it was horrible.” (DeRogatis). Both of the 19-year old's parents wanted her back home, but because she was old enough to make her own decisions, they couldn't do anything.

According to the article [R. Kelly Is Holding Women Against Their Will in A “Cult,” Parents Told Police](#), written by Jim DeRogatis, the women that R. Kelly had at his home were forced to have sexual relationships with him. They were also required to call him “daddy” and must always ask for permission to leave their rooms or the studio. (DeRogatis). If any of these women broke R. Kelly's rules they would be punished physically and verbally.

Other young teenage girls had incredibly similar stories. They start off by speaking to R. Kelly, then R. Kelly would make promises to the young girls as well as their parents about making music together, but they never did. The teenage girls would then move into R. Kelly's Atlanta home. The parents of the young girls who have been involved in his “cult” have taken him to court for justice, however nothing has been done.

## **Women in the Animation Industry Stand Up to Studios about Sexism in the Workforce** **By Kimberly Barcenas**

Women in the Animation Industry have been encouraged and inspired by the stories of Harvey Weinstein's sexual abuse victims that have been trending worldwide. Women have come together and stepped forward with a written letter stating their demands to [end sexism](#) and sexual harassment in their field.

These women start off with an open discussion about the issues they have been dealing with quietly over many years throughout their careers, making a good example about how hegemony is being displayed in our society today. Hegemony is defined as a dominant class that sets limits to a social group. In other words, men in this industry could be setting limitations on women for jobs opportunities and pay.

White men are mostly likely to become directors co-directors and creators of large-budget films, a good example will be the animated film [Moana](#), that was to be the decision makers towards the production process of creating films, and gives them control over who they decide to hire to work on their production. According the [Animation Guild](#), a labor organization that represents visual effects artists, less than a quarter of women currently hold jobs in the animation industry and that includes animators, writers, and technicians. Women have been working hard to

increase the numbers of women in this field, and having white men mainly as directors might be setting limitations for women to continue their careers in the industry.

The letter that women in the industry wrote has been sent to several animation studios that include, Disney, Warner Bros., Paramount, Cartoon Network and Sony. They stand together as their letter reads, "As we come together to share our stories of sexism, harassment in some cases, sexual assault, we were struck by the pervasiveness of the problem." Hegemony can be seen within many social group, like gender, class, race, and culture. In this case, in this case it's about gender, which the dominant is male and then females follow. This is a demonstration of power, and how it has attained women to keep quiet, but women have decided to come together to make their voices louder than ever.

### **Why George H.W. Bush isn't Harvey Weinstein** **By Amber Chandler**

In recent weeks Hollywood has been flooded with allegations of sexual assault against men whom possess in many cases a great deal of wealth and power. Among these allegations were accusations that former President George H.W. Bush has on a few occasions groped women's butts. The former president who is 93 years old, suffers from the debilitating disease Parkinson's and has been confined to a wheelchair for the last five years is now facing backlash in the media. The first accusations came from actress Lindsey Hind whom stated that she was groped during a photo and then told a dirty joke by Bush, four more women have since come forward with similar stories. A statement was released by Bush's Spokesperson in the wake of the first allegations which confirmed that the former president had been known to pat women's behinds in what was considered a "good natured manner" and that he never meant any harm. In a second statement released, it is explained that because the president is in a wheelchair when he takes pictures his arm falls on the lower back of some individuals and to lighten the mood he tells his "David-cop-a-feel". The main argument in defense of former president Bush is that this behavior may be explained by his health or lack thereof which offered a solid argument until recently. A new accuser has stated that [Bush groped her in 1992](#) during his re-election campaign prior to his deteriorating health.

This begs the question whether this has been a theme throughout Bush's life or if his health is really to blame for these incidents. If this has been a recurring theme it reinforces hegemony as Bush's power and status kept women in lower positions quiet for years in fear that they wouldn't be believed. Still the issue with these allegations is that it comes on the heels of a much bigger sexual assault scandal involving a former Hollywood director [Harvey Weinstein](#) thus causing the two issues to be lumped together regardless that the two are completely different. Weinstein is facing over 50 allegations with over a dozen different charges while Bush has had very few accusers with minor infractions. This however does not deter the fact that this is inappropriate behavior in which women have been dealing with for years. While the former president may have been well or ill in health it is still important to remember physical boundaries and that touching woman's butt without permission is unacceptable.

### **See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil, The curious case of Bill O'Reilly**

While it can be assumed that a majority of Fox News executives will be raising celebratory toasts as the nation prepares to mark a year from the day that Donald Trump was

elected President, readers of this piece might want to rethink that. While not a day goes by without a Fox News talking head reminding viewers of the 2016's Presidential election, in reality, problems have been popping up for Fox News and they don't intend on being silenced any time soon.

What we are referencing is the uncovering of a toxic culture within the back rooms of the Fox News Corporation, a culture that has targeted female employees and personalities and subjected them to harassment by their male colleagues and bosses. Recently however was the firing of Fox News's biggest talking head Bill O'Reilly in April of 2017 after it was reports by the [New York Times](#) that he had settled over 5 different sexual harassment lawsuits against him.

While readers may have been assuaged and relieved that the decision makers of the Fox News Corporation decided to relieve Mr. O'Reilly of his job, the circumstances of and the true reasons for doing so are perhaps just as troubling as the acts of sexual assault and harassment Mr. O'Reilly committed. The New York Times, alleging that executives at Fox News had been made aware that Mr. O'Reilly had settled a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a analyst for Fox News, Lisa Wehl, for a jaw dropping 32 million dollars in January of 2017. Not only that but according to the [NYT](#), the executives including owner of Fox News, Rupert Murdoch, decided to renew Mr. O'Reilly the next month in February of 2017.

As if it wasn't enough that the first report by the New York Times alleged that Fox News had helped Mr. O'Reilly settle his first five lawsuits, (that we know of), this new reporting tells us that Fox News level of concern for their employees rose to such a degree that they felt they had to take immediate action. Unfortunately, the action that the execs took in Fox News was to extend Mr. O'Reilly contract with the company for a further 4 years and to pay him 25 million dollars for each of those 4 years.

The answer to their questionable motives and actions lies in a more predictable pattern. According to an article in [Deadline](#) in March of 2015, Mr. O'Reilly was enjoying some of the highest viewership ratings in his career, and the amount of paying advertisers to be featured on his show to go with it. Then in the middle of 2016 The Wrap reported that O'Reilly's show had topped all other cable news shows for the fifth week in a row.

It wasn't only until the reports of O'Reilly settlements became public that Fox News came to care about the danger this man had been posing. Perhaps the boycotting of O'Reilly show by the majority of his advertisers is the answer. Within days of major news outlets reporting the exodus of [advertisers](#) from O'Reilly, Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch and his sons made the decision to jettison O'Reilly from his lofty perch. In simple terms, the sudden lack of advertisers meant that FN couldn't convert all those millions of viewers of O'Reilly into cash. Suddenly he wasn't recouping their investment in him. Their decision had nothing to do with trying to ensure their own employees be safe from the threat of sexual assault and harassment and everything to do with a sudden inability to make money off of a known sexual predator. They knew it, but they didn't want you, the readers, to know it.

The theory that best applies to this case study is the theory of Hegemony. Specifically, the framework of hegemony when it applies to how corporations propagate a hyper masculine environment where males can behave in a manner dangerous and detrimental to others, as long as the behavior does not imminently threaten the corporate interests.

## **Vogue, GQ and Vanity Fair Sever ties with Photographer Terry Richardson** **By Kristen Sims**

Terry Richardson is known in the fashion industry for shooting sexually explicit photos. However, he is insisting that anything that happened on his sets were consensual between the models and him, Richardson is known for his work with Miley Cyrus' music video "Wrecking Ball" and Beyoncé's music video "XO". He has also had photo shoots with Kylie Jenner, including her calendar shoots. It is not like Richardson is only shooting with random, unknown celebrities that most people have not heard of, he has shot with A-list celebrities. However, now the question is, did these sexually explicit photos happen on these sets or not?

Richardson has now been [dropped](#) from multiple leading fashion magazines including Vogue, Vanity Fair and GQ. Also, Publisher Conde Nast International has severed all relationships with the photographer. The brand has asked for action to be taken immediately and thanks everyone for support as they deal with this issue. Any photos from any of Richardson's shoots that have been used for commission or any shoots that have been completed but have not yet been published yet are now going to be replaced by other material taken by other photographers.

Richardson [faced these types of allegations before](#) in the year 2014, and even though he denied the claims, it does not matter; the photos will not ever be used. The BBC reported that a source close to Richardson said that [models](#) always consented to what Richardson asked them to do, but he has already addressed these allegations in the past, saying it was "internet gossip and false accusations".

It seems as if Terry Richardson has this mindset that he can use a model any way he wants because he considering his place of work to be "his" set. A model will come in to shoot with a fashion brand and will be ready to take direction from the photographer. Richardson took advantage of his responsibility as a photographer and made women pose in a sexually explicit way because he knew they would never say no. What he might not acknowledge is that maybe they felt as if they did not have the choice to say no.

Richardson has a very hegemonic view of how he would operate a photo shoot. Hegemony means one group thinks they are above all else, especially a group that feels they have power over another. Richardson had the power, the sets were deemed his sets and although he was working for a client, he felt like he held all the power. He believed he was above everything and could do what he wanted, so he took advantage of the models and made them do what he wanted them to do no matter if it crossed a line or not.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-41736395>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/terry-richardson-sexual-assault-consensual-sexual-photo-shoots-conde-nast-ban-vogue-a8018616.html>

## **[The Third Gender takes on California](#)**

**By Caden Lehman**

California legalizes the third gender, the first state within America to do so. America is going to see changes in the identification of California residences as they can legally claim themselves as a third gender party. Also they can change their gender from Male to Female or vis-versa without having a court approve. In the seam of things Americans can change how they identify themselves legally. This is a huge issue because people are legally able to change themselves on how they want to see themselves. It opens up the freedom of individuals to do whatever they

believe or what they would like to do. This is a media study that is interesting because of the variety of factors that they could do. People are able to go to extremes with gender. The gay community has a lot of factors lying on the success of this bill, and in California itself. In places like California, the expansion of experiments like these for equality will become more relevant. It happens in mostly democratic states because of the political views that they display. They like change and they like equality. It would be rare to ever see something like this happen in state like Texas because of the republican influence. The United States is going to see a lot of changes. The gay community has a huge reputation on line with this new bill. With this being said this issue covers cultural studies. The United States and the world we live in is going through huge changes that deal with cultural studies that help identify individuals with more freedom. The freedom to move on to new things, in this case the third gender. Where you can identify yourself legally in several different ways. California is the gateway for the other 49 states, the reputation and future of many individuals lives ride on this experiment of legalization. Not that it will not work, but whether or not it will cause separation within the gay and straight communities or if it will help people be more openly able to express themselves. In a counter effect it may also help the gay and straight community to become closer to each other. Causing less tension between the two.

### **Speak up Women of Hollywood** **By DeAndre Thomas**

There's this saying of "Pussy rules the world" but does it run Hollywood? Although male and female actors are equally protected in the industry of TV and movies, the crew is not protected equally the same when it comes to gender. [Many female crew members get sexually harassed](#) and are unable to defend themselves from it. It's almost like, if you are not a famous face you have little to no protection as a woman. One woman was told to not report a sexual harassment issue because it would "ruin her career". Her job would label her as a liability. How is it her fault someone else is harassing her? This makes females feel as if they should come to work without putting on makeup and just go with the "rough" look. They feel like if they were to show up to work with no makeup, baseball cap and jeans it would keep them away from sexual harassment within the work environment and therefore keep their job with no fear. There are already not too many women on these crews which is why they were more than likely afraid to speak out in the past. But now there might be a slight shift as these women are finally about to start speaking out because of the current things that have happened with Harvey Weinstein and how he was inviting actresses to his room to give him a massage. So now it looks if these women on the crews are going to start exposing these acts of sexual harassment and are going to start making these issues known to the public.

This is just like what we saw in the Grade My Movie: There was a significant difference between males and [females within the film industry](#) and that men practically run the movie industry. Women get no respect when it comes to this industry which baffles me. These women need to make a stand and demand the respect they deserve. In the grade my movie assignment, these women were mostly used as casting directors and every other position had about 2 or less women that actually helped on the movies. Maybe the reason women are not getting as much respect as they should be is because there are so many more males in the movie industry than females. This proves that the saying "strength in numbers" plays a big part in the workplace and throughout the world for many people.

## Online Forum Revolts Over Sexual Harassment Allegations By Christian Surbatovich

NeoGAF is a medium size gaming focused forum. As far as gaming forums and websites go it is pretty far to the left/progressive side of political and social thinking. During the 2016 Presidential election campaign NeoGAF was one of the highest sources of web traffic to Hillary Clinton's campaign website. One of the criticisms of the forum is that because the political views tended to lean to the far left it became an echo chamber for political and social views.. Recently the owner of the website, Tyler Malka, was accused on Facebook of making inappropriate sexual advances. His first statement was to deny the accusations and to say that the victim had made up the accusations because she was jealous and had mental issues. This was also not the first time that he had been involved in sexual controversy. This shows a pattern of hypermasculinity where women are used as a means for personal pleasure. This is very similar to recent events surrounding Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, and now many other popular actors, because they share a lot of similarities. Many of the men have some amount of power over the people they work with and most of them did have people accusing them in the past but the general public didn't really take notice until recently.

Because of his poor response and refusal to step down many of the website admins and forum members left to create a new online forum with similar goals. In the past the NeoGAF website had been valued between \$5-10 million but that will take a big hit from the loss of members and bad publicity. Even if the allegations turned out to be false the damage is already done as many of the users have left the site for good..

## NOT YOUR AVERAGE ASSAULTER By Sunshine Lee

[The Big Bang Theory as misogynists](#), how does that even happen? As college students, we all love to enjoy our time with friends and talk about our favorite television shows. Laugh about what our favorite character did, and reiterate their seemingly harmless joke they said in the show. Although, sometimes we do not see the problem in what they say or do because of [Lampshade Hanging](#), which is a trick that television show writers use to reassure the audience that they, the writers, know the sensitive topic they are inserting in the show.

Going back to [The Big Bang Theory](#), they are four male characters who are able to get off the hook for their sexist behavior and creepiness. Sheldon for an example, when he [bombards Penny's privacy](#) with unrelenting knocking until he gets what he wants from her. The four consistently manipulate females, deceit them, and snoop up on these ladies that are involved in their lives. This gives off some kind of vibe saying that, **Sexism** is harmless and it is extremely normal, which many do not find okay. In reality **sexism** puts females in situations that makes it difficult; pushing them out in certain industry like science, technology, and engineering. Your favorite characters Howard, Raj, Leonard, and Sheldon may be the **stereotypical** nerds, but they are your **misogynists** who beckons **sexism** as a norm even if they are not your "normal" masculine **male gaze** men. Media culture causes these certain forms of **sexism** and biases against many and for The Big Bang Theory that is towards females that are involved in their lives.