

Emilia Nodzak

**Women's Occupational Identities in American Primetime Dramas
of the Early Twenty-First Century**

Summary

The doctoral dissertation is the result of several years of research and investigation into the ways in which working women are portrayed in US primetime television dramas. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the research, the dissertation pays particular attention to the historical and social context of the tackled issues.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four analytical chapters, conclusions, works cited, filmography, and a list of tables and figures.

The introduction provides the theoretical overview and includes a discussion of the historical context of women's work and fictional representations of working women in the period prior to the time frame covered by the study, presents theoretical foundations and relevant key concepts, offers a critical review of the literature on the subject, specifies the aim of the study, and outlines the research material and methods. Chapter one offers a general overview of women in the American labor market at the beginning of the 21st century and contrasts it with the fictional representation of working women in the analyzed primetime dramas. Chapter two focuses on the types of heroines in terms of the traits and behaviors displayed in traditionally male and traditionally female occupations. Chapter three is devoted to corporeality and sartorial strategies used in image/identity construction. Then, chapter four is an attempt to intersectionally examine selected issues related to the multidimensionality of women's identities, with a particular focus on the tensions between professional and private life, including the experience of motherhood. Lastly, the conclusions summarize the essential outcomes of the conducted analyses and indicate directions for further research.

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