Different Faces, Different Voices: A Film Analysis of Power Imbalance in Gender-Dominated Societies

Objective
- While substantial literature explores the gender power differential in the United States and developing countries, little attention is given to the impact of gender participation in the developing world.
- This project examines the relationship between gender participation of women and their defiance of the power differential through Latin American film.

Literary Review
“Gender is in no way a stable identity or locus of agency from which various acts proceed; rather, it is an identity tenuously constituted in time—an identity, instituted through a stylized repetition of acts. Further, gender is instituted through the stylization of the body and, hence, must be understood as the mundane way in which bodily gestures, movements, and enactments of various kinds constitute the illusion of an abiding gendered self.”

- Judith Butler

Kassandra Diaz

Scene from Cidade de Deus: Political corruption and loss of innocence of children in Rio de Janerio, Brazil.

Feminist Criticism

“Who is to have power over the origin and over the end?... It is obvious, moreover, that one cannot speak of Europe or “women in Europe” without suggesting the time in which this sociocultural distribution is situated. If it is true that a female [of a new era] sensibly emerged a century ago, the chances are great...[that these] attitudes on the part of the European feminist movement wrongly labeled masculine at once civilizational and obsessional.”

- Julia Kristeva
Women’s Time

Scene(s) from Traffic: 2001 American drama film. Illegal drug trade from a variety of perspectives: the user, enforcer, a politician, and a trafficker.

Modern Application
- While no evidence is independently presented that economic development provides a basis for equal levels of participation, the most important factors such as gender violence and civil liberties provide a means of understanding the gender gap from both a social and political perspective.