

# Power + Censorship

Nicole, Joy, Autumn, Grant

# Keywords:

- Power:

Symbolic power - “capacity to intervene in the course of events, to influence the actions of others and indeed to create events, by means of the production and transmission of symbolic forms.” (Keywords 146)

- Censorship:

“...the restriction, suppression, or prohibition of forms of speech and media content deemed to be contrary to the common good.” (Keywords 32)

“...has generally been connected to the government of social conduct and the security and protection of the state.” (Keywords 32)

# Power

- “Power to” and “power over” (the two are directly related)
  - The **power to** resist/compare an alternative set of images (challenging someone or something)
  - The **power to** shape cultural norms/identities
  - **Power over** someone (potentially making someone do something they do not want to do)
  - **Power over** shaping cultural norms/identities (the MPAA, for example, holds too much power since they can determine whether a movie is worthy of success → slapping ‘NC-17’ on a movie basically means that it is not good enough for the public)
- To shape representation in the media; shape “reality” for the viewer
  - Media Power: “the power to make symbols (images, content, websites, films, platforms) but also the **economic power** needed to invest in the design, production, and maintaining of symbolic forms; the **social power** to focus people’s attention, so that they watch this particular symbolic content rather than another; the **political power** to block or directly censor symbolic content...and the power whereby types of particular symbolic content come to make a difference in our lives.” (Keywords 147)

# Censorship

- Limiting + restricts against the common good
  - Ex. of discussing a murder case on the News but not showing the footage
- People with the **power** control what is censored (what is shown or not shown)
- Laws about what can be shown where
- Government role
- MPAA 1966
- Restrict access to “indecenty”
- Internet debates remain ongoing
  - Vast global network/platform
- Is the movie rating system a form of censorship?
- How can we create a rating system that accounts for ALL and is beneficial to society?
- Do we need a rating system?

# Relation to MCI

- Media:
  - Organizational power - they control what can be seen, what can be talked about and how they want their show/company to be portrayed
  - Media has the power to send messages to the viewers
    - This is seen in television and social media (influencing viewers beliefs or habits)
- Culture:
  - Due to certain censorships, it creates a certain culture surrounding media outlets and/or movies and film
  - Creates a distinct culture surrounding certain genres
  - Because some movies have NC-17 on them, it restricts the advertisement behind the movie, the money flow and the number of viewers it can have because it is automatically deemed unfit for viewers due to the rating as seen in “This Film Is Not Yet Rated”

# Relation to MCI (con't)

- Identity
  - Even though some ratings on movies deter people from viewing them, there are some people who can identify themselves with characters in movies – giving them a sense of meaning

# Examples

- This Movie is Not Yet Rated
  - Rating system = what is socially “normal” or “acceptable”
  - People with **power** have the ability to **cancel** media content
- Democracy in the Age of Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube (Jepson Talk)
  - Social Impacts + Ethical Dilemma of Technology (facebook poll experiment)
  - Personal ex. Ferguson - ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Little House on the Prairie
  - The power that media holds in influencing opinions (Youtube)
- Venezuela Conflict:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/venezuela-price-revolution>