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Title: An examination of the perceptions of undergraduate law students in relation to the depiction and representation of female lawyers in the media and film

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Student perceptions of media representation of female lawyers

An examination of the perceptions of undergraduate law students in relation to the depiction and representation of female lawyers in the media and film.

A small scale qualitative case study of perceptions and opinions of first & final year law students.

Wendy Steel. Senior Lecturer in law @ University of Chester.
Objectives of session

Background to research project

Method & methodology of the project

Results of research

Current & historical discourses.

- Cultivation effect of media portrayal.

  - Greenfield, Osborn & Robson (2010), Lucia (2005), Machura (2013)
Methodology

- Semi structured interviews setting the context.


- Subsequent interviews.

- Limitations: sample size, subjectivity of extracts, suggestibility of students:

Early analysis of interviews

- General acknowledgement of negative female depictions
- Acceptance of limitations in the profession based on experience
- Ability to distinguish between media story and the need to entertain & reality.
- Expansion of research: More research & questionnaires/collaboration.
References

Books.
Kennedy H ‘Eve was Framed ‘2nd revised edition (2005) Vintage London
Lucia,C ‘Framing Female lawyers’(2005) University of Texas press
Gies Lieve ‘Law and the Media’(2008) Routledge Cavendish

Journals
References

- Sharp, Cassandra ‘ Scarlet Letter or Chastity Belt? What Legal Dramas of the Twenty first Century are “Telling” Law Students About a Career in Law ‘ Legal Ethics 2002 vol 5
- Machura Stefan & Davies Llewelyn,’Law is an Odd Thing - Liberalism and Law in the TV series “The Good Wife” Krim Journal 45 2013.
- Robson Peter, ‘Women Lawyers on Tv - the British experience’- paper delivered to University of Chester forum May 2014.
References continued.

Filmography.

*Adam's Rib*, director: George Cukor, USA, 1949

*Silk*, (TV series, UK 2012 -2014)

*Erin Brockovich*, director: Stephen Soderbergh, USA, 2000

*Philadelphia*, director: Jonathan Demme, USA, 1993

*In the Name of the Father*, director: Jim Sheridan, USA, 1993.

*Legally Blonde*, director: Robert Luketic, USA, 2001

*Judge Judy*, (TV series, USA 1996-present)

*The Good Wife*, (TV series, USA 2009 to present)
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