

SURVIVOR:
A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Portrayals of women in the media have often been stereotyped but the creation of a new program format, reality shows, may provide an opportunity for a more realistic portrayal of women to emerge. However, because of casting and editing processes, stereotypes of women may continue rather than provide a more realistic view of women. Using Feminist Theory, this qualitative study examined whether stereotypes are reinforced or absent in the portrayal of women in the reality program, *Survivor*. Four themes emerged: negative characteristics, positive characteristics, playing the game, and survival. This study found that although some stereotypes of women emerged, most often women were portrayed as strong and capable.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Television has changed in recent years. A new programming genre has emerged which has become popular with both television producers and television audiences. Reality television has taken over many prime time slots in television and cable programming. However, reality programming may not be very real after all. The editing process produces characters rather than revealing people. What is left in the program and what is left out in the editing process creates characters instead of reflecting the true personality of the people participating in the reality shows. This may affect the way women are portrayed in reality programs. The editing process may represent women in established negative stereotypes.

This study examined how women were portrayed on the reality television series *Survivor*. In 2000, Mark Burnett created a reality television series that took place on the island Palau Tiga in the South China Seas. Sixteen American contestants were dropped off in the middle of the ocean with only the supplies from the boat. Feminist Theory was used to determine how women were viewed by both the men and women from the series.

Survivor was chosen for this study because it was the first entertainment reality television show to become a national phenomenon on basic television. In order to study the show *Survivor*, a qualitative content analysis of the program was conducted. Each

sixty minute episode was examined using conversations between women, conversations between men about women, and conversations between women about other women.

These conversations show stereotypes that other people have about certain women on the island.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Feminist Theory

Television has become one of the primary resources that audience members rely on to help them understand the ways of the world and their own roles in society (Heide, 1995, p. 1). Television is often a major source of information for many people throughout the world. People see the way others act and how they behave in different situations on television. They may form their views about men and women from television. Men and women are defined through their sex and sometimes their gender.

Gender and sex have often been referred to as having the same meaning, but in reality, gender and sex are quite different. Sex is biological characteristics.

Gender is quite different. Gender is “acquired through interaction in a social world, and it changes over time” (Wood, 1997, p. 26). Gender is determined by culture, values and beliefs. Masculinity and femininity vary by which culture the person lives in. In America, men are supposed to be unemotional, strong, and the breadwinner of the family. Women are supposed to show emotion, be nurturing and be the homemaker of the house. In other cultures, the roles of masculinity and femininity may differ from the roles in America. “Gender is learned. Socially endorsed views of masculinity and femininity are taught to individuals through a variety of cultural mean” (Wood, 1997, p.

27). Studies analyzing the portrayal of women and men in television history found the following:

1. More male than female characters on television programs.
2. More diverse and less stereotypical roles assigned to males than females in television programs.
3. Younger and more attractive female characters.
4. Less competent female characters than male characters on television. (Lont, 1995, p. 170)

In the mass media, stereotyping is predominant in television programming.

Women often have minor roles in television series compared to men in the dominant roles. Women are often stereotyped into roles that have to do with the home and motherhood, whereas men are the head of the family and are associated with a job.

Findings show that women are still portrayed as unemployed while the man of the house has a professional occupation. Women on television tend to be younger, more attractive, married, slender and in a traditional feminine occupation if they are employed. Race is a factor as well as gender in the media. Not all ethnic backgrounds are portrayed accurately. The typical dominant woman on television is often Caucasian and the “ethnic” woman is often in a minor role if portrayed at all (Lott, 1995). Research has focused on how women are portrayed in various programming genres, however, because reality programming is so new, there is little research examining the portrayal of women in reality programs.

Reality Television

Reality television is a new genre of popular entertainment that has become one of most popular type of program in just a few years. “There’s no escaping it: as a genre,

reality television is here to stay...just as sitcoms and drama have become regular staples, Reality TV shows no sign of abating” (Wells & Tibaldi, 2001, p. 188).

Television stations have increased their reality television programming because of the high ratings these types of programs receive. Reality television brings a new excitement to the television viewers since it is unscripted and it is difficult to tell what will happen next. It is unpredictable. Audience members also like the realistic characters who are similar to everyday people.

Reality TV is the name given to the new genre of programmes that feature “real” people in real circumstances. Although reality TV has been around for awhile, it has only been in the past couple of years that it has gained such momentum and success. Reality TV has become a major phenomenon in the U.S., with most major networks screening some type of reality programme. (Wells & Tibaldi, 2001, p. 188)

Reality television started to appear in the 1980’s and received its notoriety in the beginning of the twenty first century. “Reality television was made possible by the development of lightweight video recording equipment” (Hill & Quin, 2001, p. 50).

Television companies have included more reality programming because of the inexpensive cost of making a reality television show; there were no actors to pay for each episode. Reality programs do not require a team of writers for each episode, saving additional production cost.

Survivor was the first entertainment reality television show to become number one in ratings. Audience members were watching television as an escape to what was happening in the real world and what they know about that real world (Wells & Tibaldi, 2001, p. 190). “While ‘reality’ television shows have been around for decades, in the past few years in particular there have been an explosion of ‘reality TV’ shows that use

real people rather than scripted actors and put them into potentially volatile situations, often with a monetary prize at the end” (Delisle, 2003, p. 43). *Survivor* showed an array of characters from every spectrum of life. *Survivor* is “part gladiatorial combat, part soap opera, part ‘fly-on-the-wall’ documentary, the new reality format employs the principle of elimination to provoke socio-emotional dramas and betrayals between people that are ‘real’, even if everything else is highly contrived” (Hill & Quin, 2001, p. 50).

Many critics argue that reality television is a constructed reality. The final broadcasts are technical edits of what the producers want the characters to become. Computer graphics help enhance and draw attention to specific instances that the producers want to highlight.

Producers cast the show *Survivor* based on lengthy interviews. They tried to find participants who would be the most appealing to the television public. Half of the cast members included women, both young and older. Most research on prime time television programs shows that older adults were underrepresented and negatively portrayed (Harwood & Anderson, 2002, p. 83). Often older adults were portrayed as different and imprudent and they often had trouble interacting with those who are younger. *Survivor* did not portray the older women as any different than the younger women. Two of the females, Susan and Kelly, became very close during the season even though there was a twenty year age difference. The female contestants were the center of the plot. The relationships between the females were the basis of the show. Emotions were displayed and relationships were developed during the season.

Survivor

Survivor is a reality television series that used many editing techniques to portray the characters the way the producers wanted them to appear to the audience members. “*Survivor* seems to go out of its way to draw attention to the fact that it is an edited construct by employing the 1990s cliché of speeded-up vision at every possible opportunity” (Hill & Quin, 2001, p. 52). These speeded-up visions showcased characters behavior for the audience’s entertainment. The visions became a portrayal of how each character was to be seen by the audience. Images were edited together to become distorted portrayals of each character.

Many scenes in *Survivor* were blended together to make the story more interesting. “The invisible camera that records conversations or challenges as they unfold, and the private soliloquy, where the contestants give personal information about how they are feeling or who they are going to vote for, out of earshot from others” (Delisle, 2003, p. 52).

The dependence of editing the characters in reality television raised many issues about morality and ethics in the mass media (Hill & Quin, 2001, p. 53). Ordinary people were thrown into unreal situations that reveal private thoughts and emotions for the pure entertainment of the viewing audience and for ratings. Producers edited each character to become who they think the audience could relate to. This was especially true of the female characters. There was always the villain, the girl next door, the mother, the grandmother, the woman who overcame an illness, the bitch, the slut or the naïve girl. Stereotypes became part of reality.

Survivor also placed people in situations that they would probably never encounter in the real world. Contestants were forced to compete against each other in challenges that would supply them with food or luxury items. Contestants were willing to do anything for those items that they have been deprived of for many days. Lack of food also made contestants behave in unusual ways. The goal for these people was food and food alone.

Many people would not be manipulative in every day life, but the opportunity of receiving one million dollars can change them. “The enormous prize money and the fact that it was ‘only a game’ were repeatedly used by the ‘final four’ castaways as justifications for their Machiavellian intrigues in *Survivor 1*” (Hill & Quin, 2001, p. 54). Most people would not take a Machiavellian approach to life in the real world because that is not the norm. They justified their behavior by explaining that it was only television and not a real life situation.

Survivor, in a way, was a primitive culture set in a modern time. “Thus the construction of privileged foreigners entering exoticized, ‘uncivilized’ territories” (Deliste, 2003, p.45) was apparent in the very first episode. Contestants were forced to use the land as their resource, finding their own food and creating shelter. The landscape became a part of the show for the contestants. “The landscape is, to a great extent, was literally constructed by the *Survivor* crew. Fake boulders were carted onto the island, and though many species of plants grew naturally, the producers planted tapioca and sugar cane for the contestants to discover” (Dilisle, 2003, p. 47).

The audience watched the contestants try to create their own lives with strangers in a strange land. “*Survivor*, then, does not simply reenact colonialism as spectacle –

though, it achieves a kind of American neocolonialism through the power of viewership and capital” (Delisle, 2003, p. 53). The game of *Survivor* was based on deception, deceit and manipulation. The contestants lied and cheated to advance themselves to the next level of the game. According to Teven (2004), “the Machiavellian personality is not necessarily interested in interpersonal relationships, but manipulates others for selfish purposes and has little sense of social morality” (p. 53).

Deception was an important part of the *Survivor* game. Contestant learned to manipulate one another to prevent being voted off in tribal counsel. “Deceptive communication strives for persuasive ends; or stated more precisely, deceptive communication is a general persuasive strategy that aims at influencing the beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of others by means of deliberate message distortion” (Tevan, 2004, p. 53). The persuasive strategies were either positive or negative.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not women were stereotyped on the reality television series *Survivor*. Conversations between men, conversations between women and conversations between men and women were the basis of whether stereotypes existed through the minds of the contestants.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized content analysis qualitative research methods in order to uncover themes regarding the portrayal of women in the television program *Survivor*. Three types of conversations from the program *Survivor* were recorded: on-camera interviews with women, conversations between men talking about females, and conversations between women talking about other women. These observations allowed the researcher to develop reoccurring themes.

Subjects

This study included sixteen contestants featured on the program *Survivor*. At the time of this study, the series was five years old. Eight contestants were female and eight contestants were male. The ages of the contestants ranged from twenty-two to seventy-one. All the contestants were dropped off the coast of Pilau Tagi and formed two separate tribes on different beaches on the island. The two tribes were called Tagi and Pagong.

The Tagi Tribe included the following contestants: BB Anderson, 62, a Real Estate Developer from Mission Hills, Kansas, Stacey Stillman, 27, an Attorney from San Francisco, Dirk Been, 23, a Dairy Farmer from Wisconsin, Sean Kenniff, 30, a Neurologist from Long Island, Susan Hawk, 38, a Truck Driver from Wisconsin, Rudy Boesch, 71, a Retired Navy Seal from Virginia, Kelly Wiglesworth, 22, a River Guide

from Las Vegas, and Richard Hatch, 38, a Corporate Communications Consultant from Rhode Island. The Pagong tribe included the following contestants: Sonja Christopher, 62, a breast cancer survivor from San Francisco, Ramona Grey, 28, a Bio-Chemist from New Jersey, Joel Klug, 27, a Health Club Consultant from Little Rock, Gretchen Cordy, 37, a former Air Force Survival Instructor who taught Pre-School from Tennessee, Greg Buis, 23, an Ivy League Graduate from Colorado, Jenna Lewis, 22, a Single Mother and Full Time Student from New Hampshire, Gervase Peterson, 30, a YMCA Basketball Coach from Philadelphia, and Colleen Haskell, 23, an Advertising Student from Miami.

Observation

The observation involved watching each of the thirteen episodes from the beginning of the series to the end of the series. The first episode aired on May 31, 2000, on CBS. Each episode aired for sixty minutes and lasted approximately forty minutes. The finale aired for two hours and lasted an hour and a half. Every episode included an immunity and or a reward challenge, tribal counsel, voting results, conversations between contestants and interviews.

Episode 101 - The Marooning aired on May 31, 2000. Contestants were dropped off in the ocean a few miles away from the island Palau Tiga. Once on the island, contestants went to their separate tribes; Pagong and Tagi. Here the contestants got to know each other and performed their first challenge. Sonja was voted off.

Episode 102 - The Generation Gap aired on June 7, 2000. The two tribes continued setting up camp and getting to know each other. BB started to get on everyone's nerves with his male chauvinistic viewpoints. The challenge brought the contestants together to eat bugs from the island. BB was voted off.

Episode 103 - Quest For Food aired on June 14, 2000. During this episode, the two tribes discovered that they needed to hunt and fish. The Pagong tribe killed and ate the rats on the island because they were sick of eating only rice. Stacey was voted off at the conclusion of this episode.

Episode 104 - Too Little Too Late aired on June 21, 2000. This episode focused more on the Pagong Tribe. Each contestant took on a role to help ensure their stay on the island. Gretchen became the mom, Rudy the cook, Richard the fisherman, Gervase the card player and Ramona was the lazy one. In the end, Ramona was voted off during tribal counsel.

Episode 105 - Pulling Your Own Weight aired on June 28, 2000. This episode had a challenge that involved blow darts, slingshots and other various activities for the food challenge. Pagong won the immunity challenge and Dirk was sent home at tribal counsel.

Episode 106 - Udder Revenge aired on July 5, 2000. The infamous chauvinistic statement by Gervase was made during this episode. Gervase compared women to cows which sent the women in an uproar over his stereotyping. Joel found the comment extremely entertaining and the women tribe voted him off at tribal counsel.

Episode 107 - The Merger aired on July 12, 2000. During this episode, the two remaining tribes merged as one tribe and became Rattana. Former Pagong members moved to the former Tagi's beach. Greg won the immunity challenge which prevented him from being voted off. The team banded together and voted Gretchen off.

Episode 108 – The episode named Duplicity aired on July 19, 2000. This episode showed the softer side of Jenna. Each member was allowed to view the one minute tape

from family members. Jenna was the only one who did not receive a tape and she was extremely upset because she had two young twin girls back home. The alliance became very obvious during this episode and former Pagong members knew they were being targeted. Greg was voted off.

Episode 109 - Old and New Bonds aired on July 26, 2000. Jenna attempted to stop the alliance with her former tribe members. Colleen won the food challenge and picked Jenna to join her for a barbeque dinner. During the dinner, the two decided to become an alliance and vote off former Tagi members. Jenna was voted off after the challenge.

Episode 110 - Crack in the Alliance aired on August 2, 2000. Gervase found out that his girlfriend gave birth to his first son. He also won the reward challenge and received a call home. In the end, Gervase was voted off during tribal counsel.

Episode 111 - Long Hard Days aired on August 9, 2000. During this episode, Susan and Kelly start to drift apart. Kelly also decides she did not want to take part in the alliance. Sean won the reward challenge and was allowed to stay the night on a luxurious yacht where he found his father. After the immunity challenge, Colleen was voted off.

Episode 112 - Death of an Alliance aired on August 16, 2000. Kelly continued to win immunity and reward challenges. She knew if she lost an immunity challenge, she would be the next to go home. Kelly also tried to convince Richard that she was still part of the alliance. In the end, Sean was the next to be voted off.

Episode 113 - Season Finale aired on August 23, 2000. This episode showed the final three days on the island with only Susan, Rudy, Kelly and Richard remaining. Kelly won the first immunity challenge. Susan was then voted off. The next immunity

challenge was won by Kelly again. Rudy was voted off. Kelly and Richard were now in competition to win the one million dollar prize. During tribal council, the last seven voted off contestants determined who the winner was. Each voted-off contestant was allowed to ask a question or make a statement to Kelly and Richard. Susan's infamous speech came about during this council. Richard received four votes to win while Kelly only received three votes. In the end, Richard became the ultimate Survivor.

Qualitative Analysis of Data

The content of each of the episodes were transcribed and printed for analysis of the data. The transcriptions were then coded. This process compared each incident to determine which category each statement fell into. The coding scheme was developed by the researcher. In most cases, statements were made between at least two people in a conversational setting. However, in some cases, statements were made about one or more of the women directly to the camera. Each statement or statements was then coded into a specific category. As the process continued, statements were compared to previous statements to find a common theme.

The codes were analyzed and reviewed for broader themes. After reviewing the text, the researcher discovered four reoccurring themes: negative characteristics, positive characteristics, playing the game and survival. Codes were then placed in similar thematic categories.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four themes were consistently found throughout the series *Survivor*. Each conversation by the participants of *Survivor* included at least one of the themes: negative characteristics, positive characteristics, playing the game, and survival. Some themes were constructed through framing while other themes showed the “true colors” of the contestants.

Negative Characteristics

The first theme, negative characteristics, had sixteen sub-themes. Included in the negativity theme were: laziness, grumpiness, deceptiveness, avoidance, wasting time, weakness, dislike, failure, stupidity, chauvinism, threat, trust, arrogance and work ethics.

Laziness was apparent in many conversations between the contestants on *Survivor*. BB, in the very first interview, spoke about Colleen and Ramona’s laziness. He commented how Colleen decided against unknitting the twine that was to be used to build the camp. BB believed the women of the island were lazy which contradict previous research. According to the United Nations Human Development Report 2004 “women work more than men, when both paid employment and unpaid household tasks are accounted for and on average women performed 5% more work than men, or 18 minutes per day.” The women were negatively stereotyped as being lazy when they were taking a break from all the work they had been doing.

I asked Colleen to help straighten this out for me and here it is. (Rolling up the twine which is still in a knot). This is the only thing she had to do today. We can't have lazy people. (BB).

Later in the series, Jenna and Colleen talked while lying in the hammock. Jenna told Colleen that she felt like sitting in the hammock all day and Colleen responded that nothing was going to stop her from being lazy.

If I feel like sitting in a hammock all day, I'm gonna sit in a hammock all day. (Jenna).

Grumpiness was evident with two male cast members: BB and Rudy. In the first episode, BB attempted to start a fire with his glasses. Gretchen was successful in starting the fire with the help of BB's glasses. BB proudly stated that the only reason Gretchen started the fire was because he thought to bring glasses with him. BB felt that he was superior to Gretchen because of his intelligence. Some feminists believe that there is no difference between the sexes and that the roles we take on is taught to us through conditioning, according the United Nations Human Report 2004. BB feels he is superior because he is the man teaching the woman how to start the fire. He was grumpy about Gretchen because she was the one who actually started the fire using BB's glasses.

The fire started because I brought a set of glasses with me. I was gonna do it but Gretchen said why don't I do it too so I said great and she took my glasses and started a fire. (BB).

Rudy was also grumpy in the second episode. He talked about Stacy and how prim and proper she was. Rudy stated that he would never be friends with her in the real world because she was completely different from him. Rudy was portrayed as the grumpy one because all that was seen in the beginning of the series were his grumpy moments.

Me and her wouldn't get along if we were friends on the outside. I definitely avoid her. She's definitely to prim like after about two weeks out in the jungle she's going to learn a lesson (Rudy).

Deceptiveness` was consistent throughout *Survivor*. “*Survivor* showcases the human tools manipulation, deception, and betrayal as justifiable means to a superlative end” (Tevan, 2004, p. 52). Susan was very deceptive from the very beginning. She let people think she was voting one way when in reality she voted another way. She wanted everyone to think she was on there side. Women typically use language to control and deceive other people into believing what they want them to believe. Susan talks to her competitors too much so she can manipulate others into believing her (Myers, 1999, p. 313).

Stacy came up to me and said she don't like Rudy and we think we're gonna vote for Rudy and vote Rudy him off because he is too barky and anyone's too barky and to bossy for Stacy because she doesn't move her ass. The chicks think I'm voting for one person and I'm not. (Susan).

Richard was notoriously known for being deceptive. He played people against each other for his own benefit. Toward the end of the series, Richard used deceptiveness as an advantage. He tried to smooth things over with Kelly because Kelly believed Sue and Richard were mad at her. According to Feminist Theory and the United Nations Human Development Report 2004 “men have been socialized to aggressively seek positions of power or direct the agendas within a leadership hierarchy.” Richard wanted to seek the power of being the “peacemaker” because his agenda was to deceive all the people on the island so he could win the game. Richard was always shown as the deceptive one during the series. Each scene portrayed him as a manipulative man.

When Kelly said to me, are you pissed off at me? It seems

to me that you and Sue are pissed off at me. Well, that was my opportunity to come in and smooth things as opposed to the one whole upsets the apple cart. So, certainly that little tiff between Kelly and Sue has been coming and plays to my advantage. Absolutely. It's bizarre to me how people do the things they do like how Sue and Kelly are washing each other's backs, hair and laughing and joking and picking each other's zits all the rest of it and right now after what they went through yesterday. (Richard).

Stacy talked to Susan about how Rudy was too bossy to the other people on the island. Stacy told Susan that he was too barky and too bossy for anyone on the island.

Stacy came up to me and said she don't like Rudy and we think we're gonna vote for Rudy and vote Rudy him off because he is too barky and anyone's too barky and too bossy for Stacy because she doesn't move her ass. The chicks think I'm voting for one person and I'm not. (Susan).

Avoidance described Ramona from the very beginning. Ramona told everyone that she was sick from day one and she could not participate in any activities on the island. She refused to help set up camp, look for food or do any other daily chore. She avoided all responsibilities of being a contestant on Survivor. Ramona was also thrown into a specific stereotype. She was only shown on air laying around and doing relatively nothing. It was obvious that she was chosen to be the lazy female from the very first episode. Ramona fit into the stereotype the producers wanted to portray; a lazy female.

Ramona is hurtin big time. I feel bad for her. She worked so hard to get in to the mix of things and helped out do her job and do her part, but she's just not feeling well. (Gervase).

I don't think this is what she expected. I don't think she'd ever quit. I think she doesn't want to admit she's laying down a lot. I think it's only because she doesn't want to say she can't be successful at something because I think at home she is very successful. (Gretchen).

Rudy believed many people on the island wasted time. He stated this is the third episode. Susan and Kelly talked about Rudy and his opinion on wasting time. He told Kelly she was wasting her time setting up traps to catch fish. He couldn't understand why the other people were even setting up traps when they weren't catching any fish in the first place.

When was the last time Rudy went on a water run? (Susan)

He never did. (Kelly).

I don't think he's been on a water run. He's sneaky eating food while in the kitchen. (Susan).

We rowed out yesterday morning and set the traps I come in the kitchen "morning Rudy how are you doing?" "You're wasting your time out there. It's just a waste." "I was like damn good morning to you, too." (Kelly).

He's wasting time by doing nothing. (Susan).

Weakness was a sub theme that Susan talked about. She believed Stacey was the weakest member of the group because she tried to buddy up with the other contestants. Susan felt Stacey did not contribute to the group in any way. Stacey not only had to compete with the men but she also had to compete with other women. Stacey is portrayed as weak by Susan because she is trying to become part of the group. Stacey wants the others to know that she has knowledge that could be beneficial to the group, but Susan is trying to divide the women to her advantage.

I already know who I'd vote for – the person least contributing to the group out of here. I have personality conflicts everyday with people. I deal with them, I live with them and I go on. And I'm gonna do the same here. I'm gonna get rid of the weakest member and vote Stacy out. Stacy's trying to buddy up with everybody because she knows she's the weakest. (Susan).

Dislike was common through out the entire series. Rudy disliked many people, especially Stacy in the beginning of the series. He distinctly stated that he would vote for Stacy in the upcoming tribal counsel because he didn't like her and he never would.

It's either gonna be me or Stacey. I'm gonna vote for Stacey at the counsel tonight because I don't like her and I never will. (Rudy).

Annoyance came up repeatedly in episode four. Gervase talked about voting off Jenna because he felt she was too annoying. He also thought Colleen was annoying, but he was willing to keep her around for a little bit. Jenna was considered annoying and dramatic because of her bubbly personality. She was portrayed as melodramatic in every episode. But Jenna was not the only annoying and dramatic person on the island. Gervase was very similar to Jenna, but he was not portrayed in an annoying and dramatic way because he was a man. "Not all women are attracted to melodrama, and that some men can be moved to melodrama too" (Brown, 1990, p. 87). Gervase tends to get right in the middle of situations to promote drama to his benefit and then turned around and blamed the women for being the annoying ones on the island.

If someone had to go right now in our tribe I would vote for Jenna. She's more annoying than Colleen. I can deal with Jenna not being here than just keep Colleen around a little longer. (Gervase).

Dirk also was annoyed with Susan because of her constant complaining. Dirk voted for Susan in the tribal counsel because of his annoyance with her.

I love you (Susan) but I can't stand the complaining. (Dirk).

Failure was very apparent after challenges. Kelly felt failure after a challenge that involved canoeing. Kelly was a white water rafter and felt very confident before the challenge started. Gervase beat her on the challenge and she became extremely upset

because she failed to someone that could not even swim. Pride also came into this conversation because Kelly's pride was hurt because of her failure. She believed she was in the more powerful position, but it turned out to be an incorrect assumption. Susan Fiske proposed a model that showed how power and stereotypes influence each other. Normally, the man is considered to be the more powerful, but Kelly has the knowledge and power for this challenge, or so she thought. "Powerful people pay less attention to others and consequently rely on simple stereotypes. Powerful people pay less attention to the less powerful in part because the less powerful have little control over them" (Hyde & Durik, 2005, p. 3).

I got beat by a guy that can't even f----- swim. (Kelly).

Yeah, but he wasn't swimming. (Susan).

Yeah, go Kelly. I can't believe that I lost. (Kelly).

Stupidity came into play with a specific comment made by Gervase. Gervase made the comment that women are the stupidest things on the planet next to cows. The girls gave Gervase an extremely hard time because he made the stupid comment. Gervase became extremely apologetic later in the episode. Gervase also talked about relationships and how people often do stupid things for another person when they liked them. He didn't understand how people can be stupid, especially in relationships. This comment was the center of the entire episode. From a viewer's point of view, it was very obvious the producers wanted a chauvinistic comment to be made and the women to react to it.

I made a totally dumb statement that I now regret. You know to pick at the girls give them a shot. (Gervase).

It sets it up first with don't take offense to this but women are the stupidest things on the plant next to cows. He called us stupid. (Jenna).

The whole context of the story was we were talking about

relationships and how guys and girls will do the stupidest things if you like the person. (Gervase).

We never got around to the stupid things guys do. (Jenna).

If you like someone you probably shouldn't be doing the stupid things for them that maybe you shouldn't do.

(Gervase).

We are not as stupid as cows, we're a step above. (Jenna).

I said you know Gervase I told those girls that all they had to do when they write your name on that piece of paper and hold it up to the camera they can look straight into the lense and say "moo." His mouth dropped open like he had never considered that maybe that wasn't the best thing to say to a woman that much power over him. (Gretchen).

I'm being really apologetic because it was stupid. I mean, after I said it. (Gervase).

He was in this box with no freaking way out. Blah blah blah blah. Gervase is on a free ride. He's untouchable.

I don't know how he gets through. He's calling women cows.

He doesn't do stuff half the time. (Colleen).

Chauvinism was very obvious in the conversation regarding women being compared to cows. During tribal counsel, Gretchen made the point that you can act like a chauvinist, but the girls had more power than Gervase even knew about. Colleen also felt that Gervase was a chauvinist because of his comments. Gervase felt like he was untouchable because he was a man. "Women are no longer considered incapable of performing many of the jobs traditionally held by men" (Meyers, 1999, p. 9). Gervase obviously did not believe this. He believed women are a step lower than all men and they behave stupidly in situations involving relationships. This is an example of how Gervase negatively stereotyped the women on the island as being on the same level of a farm animal. He ended up regretting this remark because it made him look like a chauvinist to the women.

Joel also felt the girls though he was a chauvinist. He stated that he was not a chauvinist and that women could do anything that a man could do. He felt that if one of the women wanted to compete with him, they could go ahead and try.

I'm not a chauvinist. I believe a woman can do anything a man can do. Go ahead. If you want to compete with me go ahead. I can't really think of anything that I have done as bad. (Joel).

It was very obvious that Gervase had a low opinion of women. He was stereotyping women and comparing them to an animal. Again, the episodes replayed this conversation. Gervase happened to make a comment the producers played on that made him out to be a chauvinist.

Threat is often talked about during the course of the series. Gervase felt Jenna was a threat because they both were single parents and people had stronger emotions towards Jenna because she did not receive a letter from her children after competing in a challenge. All the other contestants received a short video clip from a loved one back home. Gervase felt that votes would sway away from him because the other people on the island may have felt bad for Jenna.

Jenna is a threat to me because she has kids and I have kids so we're like single parents. People feel for single parents. She's tugging on people's emotions right there. And that can sway for someone not to vote for Jenna and that's a threat for me. (Gervase).

Trust in friendship sways from different emotions throughout each episode. Toward the end of the series, Kelly talked about her dwindling friendship with Susan. In the beginning of the series, Kelly did trust Susan and vice versa. Toward the end of the series, Susan moved back from the friendship. Kelly realized that the trust in

their friendship was gone and she could care less. Susan also talked about how her trust for Kelly was starting to dwindle away.

I thought I could trust Sue, which was my first mistake. You can't trust anybody. I don't lose any respect for her playing the game at all. You know I said something today on the trails. Wait a minute, we're not evil, we just play bad people on tv. Whether it's every man for himself or whatever. I would like to smooth things over with Sue because that was just completely. There was no, there was nothing behind that. (Kelly).

The only person I trust is Kelly and sometimes I doubt that. It's getting to that point where you don't know who you can trust. (Susan).

Arrogance was evident in the last episode of the series. Susan made a speech about Kelly and Richard. Susan spoke about how arrogant and pompous Richard was. He worked very hard at being arrogant, which advanced him to the final two survivors.

I have no questions. I just have statements. Rich, you are very openly arrogant, pompous human being. But I admire your frankness with it. You have worked hard to get where you are at and you started working hard way before you came to the island. So, with my work ethic background, I give that credit to you, but on the other hand, your inability to admit your failures without going into a whiny speech, makes you a bit of a loser in life. Kelly, the rafting persona queen. You did get stomped on, on national tv by a city boy that never swam, let alone been in the woods or rode a boat in his life. You sucked on that game. Anyways, I was your friend at the beginning of this, really thinking that you were a true friend. I was willing to sit in there and put you next to me. At that time, you were sweeter than me. I'm not a very openly nice person. I'm just frank, forward and tell you the way it is. And have you sit there next to me and lose \$90,000 to stomp on somebody just like this. But as the game went along, and the two tribes merged, you lied to me. Which showed me the true person that you are. You're very two-faced and manipulative to get where you are at any where in life. That's why you fail all the time. So, at that point of the game, I decided then to go out with my alliance to my family just to hold my dignity and values in check, hoping that I

hadn't lost too many of them and to play the game just as long as possible and hang in there as long as possible. But, Kelly, go back to a couple times when Jeff said to you what goes around comes around. It's here. You will not get my vote. My vote will go to Richard. And I hope that is the one vote that makes you lose the money. If it's not, so be it. I'll shake your hand and I'll go on from here. But, if I were to ever pass you along in life again, and you were laying there dying of thirst, I would not give you a drink of water. I would let the vultures take you and do whatever they want with you with no ill regrets. I plead to the jury tonight to think a little about the island we have been on. This island is pretty much full of two things: snakes and rats. And in the end of mother nature, we have Richard the snake, who knowingly went after prey and Kelly who turned into the rat that ran around like the rats do on this island, trying to run away from the snake. I feel we owe it to the islands spirits that we have learned to come to know to let it be in the end the way mother nature intended it to be for the snake to eat the rat. (Susan).

Work ethics is the last-sub theme under negativity. Sean talked about Susan's work ethics at the very beginning of the series. She constantly worked around the island and never took time to relax. Sean felt Susan's work ethics drove everyone crazy because she was always working. Women typically are portrayed on television as the homemaker. More and more women are entering the work force, as well as continuing to be the homemaker after work hours. "As might be expected, though, the occupation of many of the women characters appears to be housekeeping. In fact, nearly 40% of the female characters fall under the category of 'Housewife/Domestic/Full-Time Mother.' Their activities include childrearing, housecleaning, gardening, cooking and sewing." (Meyers, 1999, p. 49). Susan is portrayed as the one who cooks and cleans while the men are relaxing on the beach underneath the sun.

She just always keeps working, working, working it just drives everyone crazy. The guys were talking about this today. I wish she would slow down a little and just relax. (Sean).

The negative characteristics seemed to be the focus of the show. The contestant's negative attitudes and qualities came out in the beginning of the show. Many of the contestants were portrayed as grumpy, lazy and bossy from day one. Others were deceptive very quietly. No matter what negative characteristic was used, the contestants showed a negative side of humanity and the producers and editors highlighted each of their personal faults.

Positive Characteristics

The second theme, positive characteristics, had fourteen sub-themes. The sub-themes were knowledge, unexpectedness, impressiveness, enthusiasm, being yourself, work ethics, redemption, life on the island, sincerity, femininity, bonding, friendship, family and character.

Knowledge was important in the game of *Survivor* because the contestants often wanted to know about the people they were sharing the island with. Richard admitted he wanted to know more about Stacey because he voted her off without really knowing her.

I really want to learn a little more about Stacey because I voted her off. She thinks it was Rudy and she even came up to me and said I think Rudy voted for me. (Richard).

Knowledge is a very important aspect in feminist theory because it "pays attention to women's different ideas especially the way in which feminist knowledge is constructed through the interaction of the self and the natural world" (Humm, 1995, p. 139). Stacey's education and knowledge was intimidating to many of the men on the island because she did outsmart them in many ways.

Many contestants felt unexpectedness was a positive trait because they often found that many people were not quite sure what would happen next on the island.

Gretchen felt Ramona did not expect what the everyday life of the island was going to be like.

I don't think this is what she expected. I don't think she'd ever quit. I think she doesn't want to admit she's laying down a lot. I think it's only because she doesn't want to say she can't be successful at something because I think at home she is very successful. (Gretchen).

Enthusiasm was very apparent on the island by the contestants. They often had to be enthusiastic to accomplish their daily tasks in their strenuous conditions. In the beginning Ramona thought Jenna was a very enthusiastic person. She believed they could be friends in spite of their color difference.

Jenna she's like this energizer bunny that keeps going and going and going. I haven't had a white friend since junior high school. I can really see her as being my first white friend in a long time. (Ramona).

Being yourself seemed to be important to some of the cast members. They didn't want to lose who they were while playing the game. Gervase acknowledged that Ramona could only be herself while others were complaining about her laziness. He felt she had a lot to offer, but often got lost in trying to do so.

The only thing Ramona can be is herself. She has great gifts to offer, maybe she will be able to, maybe she won't. (Gervase).

Work ethics were also very important on the island. Being on the island, the contestants had to build everything from what they found scattered about the island. If the people didn't have good work ethics, then there was no where to live. Gervase felt Ramona's work ethics were improving over her stay on the island. Gervase felt that in the beginning, Ramona was lazy. But, she was slowly improving her work ethics as each day passed. Ramona did have good work ethics outside of the island. She was a scientist

and was highly intelligent. She had a hard time adjusting to life on the island. Gervase saw Ramona laying around and not helping with the chores. He saw work ethics in a homemaker situation. "Feminist theory argues that women's work must be seen in the context of the family economy" (Humm, 1999, p. 312). Gervase believed that Ramona's work ethics improved the more she worked around the island.

Work wise Ramona today seems to be a lot healthier, helpier, saying I'll do that. (Gervase).

Redemption was also a positive characteristic on the island. Some of the contestants had to redeem themselves from earlier episodes. Both Gervase and Jenna felt that Ramona had definitely redeemed herself a week into the show. In the beginning, Ramona was lazy and slept most of the time. Three separate people spoke about Ramona and how she changed her behavior.

I think Ramona's change has to do with her feeling more comfortable, she's feeling better she's feels like she's more part of the group which I don't think she felt in the beginning. (Gretchen).

I think we definitely have seen Ramona's redemption this week. It looks like she's turning things around. In my eyes she's redeeming herself. In other people's eyes it may be totally different. (Gervase).

I think Ramona has changed her attitude, no changed her work ethic a lot. But I don't think her attitude has changed much. She is working more. (Jenna).

Life on the island was often difficult, but the contestants tried to make the best of it. Every day, they had to hunt and fish for their food. The women were the ones who were often on the boat trying to catch fish for their daily meals. Kelly and Jenna talked about their separate tribes and their own lives on the island. Both Kelly and Jenna, along with the other women of the island were often the ones who went out for the food and the

water. The women overcame the stereotype that men should be the ones to hunt and the women should be the ones at home cooking. Often, the men were the ones who cooked the food. The stereotypes of women in a homemaker position were fading away in this specific situation.

Gretchen and I both fished for an hour. (Jenna).
Really? (Kelly).
Nothing, not even a bite. (Jenna).
When do you guys fish? (Kelly).
Early morning, late evening. (Jenna).
Yeah, that's when we fish. (Kelly).
Rich is a sweetheart. He's so easy going. He's naked a lot. (Kelly).
Um, ok. (Jenna).
Right now we have two mosquito nets. The guys go on the left and me and Sue and Rich, the girls go on the right.
Here's the super bench, living room area. (Kelly).
Wow, you guys are very, very well organized: so much more than ours. You guys are amazing. (Jenna).

Sincerity was a positive trait that was only revealed once throughout the series. Richard believed that Jenna and Gretchen were truly sincere people. It was hard for people to truly be sincere because they were all playing a game for a chance to win one million dollars.

Jenna's sincere, I believe Jenna's sincere. I think Gretchen's sincere. Jenna's is young and not a mature young. She wants to be proud for her children and proud for your children – win. Show your girls what it's about and win. (Richard).

Feminism was very apparent between the women of the island. According to the United Nation Human Development Report 2004 "Feminism is a diverse collection of social theories, political movements, and moral philosophies, largely motivated by or concerning the experiences of women, especially socially, politically, and economically." The women of the island wanted to promote themselves as strong, educated and good

members of society through their femininity. The women seemed to do most of the work on the island and they had different discussions in episode eight about the power of women on the island. The women tried to break free from a weak and helpless stereotypical woman and be a strong, independent woman others looked up to. The women tried to break free of the mold that most television women had become.

The women seem to be doing well now because they are all workers. Actually, I like Jenna better than I thought I would. I thought she would drive me wild, but she doesn't. (Susan).

Don't worry, the guys days are numbered. They are numbered. Us girls are here for awhile. (Susan).

Oh man I love ya. (Jenna).

We'll be up at the end. (Susan).

I see the girls getting the crap trap, the woman fix the hut.

We're carrying the weight of the team. Maybe that's unfair, but that's how I see it. (Jenna).

Bonding and friendship were two positive traits that were evident throughout the series. Friendship is a form of emotional binding between women (Humm, 1999, p. 103). Most women strive to bond with other women. Many of the contestants bonded because they came into the situation with no one. Others bonded for companionship and friendship. Kelly and Susan were the two contestants that bonded the most out of all the others. Their friendship started almost immediately.

I really like Sue a lot. We've bonded quiet a bit in these thirty days. (Kelly).

It will be twenty years this Easter that I lost my best friend, so coming across Kelly, someone I can hang with, I ain't gonna f--- her. I'm not burning her. (Susan).

Doing the mud thing really wore a lot of energy for us and key us down a little bit and Kelly's the only other girl on the island with me, so we're gonna hang together until the end. (Susan).

Family was often discussed throughout all of the episodes. All the contestants left behind loved ones and they often talked about those back home. "Feminists are concerned about the family because it is the primary beneficiary and focus of a women's most fundamental identity, a mother" (Humm, 1999, p. 87). Most of the female contestants felt their families were the only ones who truly cared about them. Susan especially felt this way.

I've come to the conclusion that I rely on my family, who I love dearly and I would live and die for. (Susan).

A positive character was often hard to show to the other contestants because they were playing a game and trying to win. At the end of the series, many of the voted off contestants were permitted to ask Kelly and Richard a question. Jenna asked Kelly who the two people she would have picked to be in the final two.

If I had to pick two people it would be Sonja and Gretchen. I really admire those women. I felt that they were very strong, very smart and very honest. Maybe, we have a different approach to things, but I really admire their character. I would like to see them up here. (Kelly).

The many positive characteristics made up realistic personas of who the contestants really were at that point in their lives. The contestants had to start with not knowing what was going to happen next to everyday life on the island. Through the days, they experienced other's beliefs and character. They had to learn how to interact with new people in a positive way.

Playing the Game

The third theme was playing the game. Playing the game was an important part of *Survivor* because it was the reason why the contestants were on the island. Under this theme there were three sub- themes: strategy, voting off and alliances.

Strategy was found through out the entire series because strategy was one of the main components of playing the game of *Survivor*. Often contestants believed their strategy was positive, but they were often manipulated by other contestant's negative strategy. Kelly believed that each person's ability to pass through tribal council was to win a challenge.

When it comes down to voting people that we do like off it's sucky but I think it's gonna come down to whoever screws up on the challenges. (Kelly).

Richard also had to change his strategy toward the end of the series because he was not sure if people liked him or if they were just playing the game.

Well, I've got to remember that it's a game and I believe them. I believe you (Rudy), I believe her (Susan) and I believe Kelly. I don't know if Kelly's as solid as that as all the way through. I hope so. I'm betting on it. I was betting on it bringing her into this. And I'm feeling very good about Sue. If they are not, then they are brilliant because they played me well, they played me beautifully. (Richard).

Voting people off is another main component of playing the game. Each week, a cast member is voted off by their peers. Rudy and Richard had a long discussion on who should be voted off during the tenth episode. Kelly also discussed voting people off with Richard.

It's ironic that Colleen is even trying because she thinks she's dead tonight. I asked her today, Colleen what makes you happy? She said, you know Rich, irony makes me

happy. I think it's ironic that she's trying to stay on the board and she's not even in danger of getting voted off. Now, Kelly on the other hand, has no idea that she's leaving this evening. (Richard).

I bet Sean gets two votes from the girls. (Rudy).

Yeah, Sean may get votes from Colleen (Richard).

Colleen and (Rudy).

Maybe Kelly just to throw a vote (Richard).

Yeah (Rudy).

Kelly's trying to look like she's not part of the voting block. Look at her, she's almost gone. She's miss dancer, so maybe she has balance. He's cut one side and now he's cut the other side and they're all wobbling. Look at the wobble. And play by play, as we look at Sue, she's got the arms up, level, across the side, but Kelly, holly moses! She looks like she's going back and forth. Oh no! Colleen, looking rather stable, although determined. Really trying to hang on, thinking she's going to be ejected this evening. Sean, there he goes, Sean falls off the board and it is down to three. Oh Sue! It's Kelly and Colleen (for immunity on next vote). Holy Moses! If Kelly wins immunity, what happens? Sean or Colleen? (Richard).

If I was trying to plot against you and plot against Sue and trying to use them in my best interest, then I would have voted for you. But, I decided, to stay true. (Kelly).

Alliances are the last sub-theme of *Survivor*. Without the alliance, the final four players would not have ended at their position. Often the alliance between Richard, Rudy, Susan and Kelly was questioned throughout the series. Richard especially was paranoid about his alliance breaking up.

Kelly's acting a little odd. She's dressing like the other two that are her age and I'm hoping that Kelly hasn't shifted trust and joined forces with somebody else. (Richard).

Had Sue not inform me that she could have broken the alliance and established one with Kelly, I never would have known it and the two of them would easily undermined me and I could have gone at any point if they had maintained that alliance. So, it's kinda neat, cute, nice that the final four were the Initial four, but it wasn't a continuous line of the initial four making it all the way through. So, there's a different feeling

attached to it not that sense of accomplishment I would have had. Had the trust been unbreached and we would have gone through cleanly. (Richard).

Overall, the three sub-themes described life on the island as a game. Playing the game was the reason why the contestants were on the island in the first place. If they did not play the game the best they could, they would have had to go home and lose their chance of the million dollar prize. Strategy, voting others off the island and alliances were all important strategies of playing the game.

Survival

The fourth and final theme was survival. All the contestants had to survive on the island without the basic necessities of life. Everything they ate, with the exception of rice, had to be found. They also dealt with life away from home. The two themes for survival were homesickness and hunting and fishing.

Being homesick occurred for almost every contestant. They were dropped in the middle of the ocean to start out a life that did not even have the basic necessities. The contestants were rewarded a surprise gift from home to ease their homesickness. Kelly hoped the reward was a picture from home. Greg also noticed that Jenna was extremely homesick and missed her two young daughters.

The reward is going to be something from home and Jenna's thinking it's our pictures that we got to bring. And she really misses her daughters terribly. (Kelly).

I felt so bad for Jenna she practiced all morning on that stupid bow and arrow and then it was just like why bother for her. (Kelly).

I don't know what her feeling is because now it seems like she wants to leave the island to see her girls. (Greg).

The other part of survival was hunting and fishing. If the contestants chose not to hunt or fish, they were forced to eat only rice. At first, the contestants become frustrated because fishing and hunting were much harder than they had anticipated. Susan, Jenna and Kelly felt confident when they finally caught a fish.

You've got to go out like an hour before it gets dark. Right when it got dark we started getting our bites and after it started getting dark we didn't get any bites. I'll tell ya I'm getting to the point if there ain't no crabs out there. (Susan).
It's like not even worth doing it. (Jenna).
In a day or two I'm not going to do it no more. (Susan).
It's a fish for sure (Jenna).
It's a fish (Kelly).
That's so awesome. Look at that thing, he's pretty big.
that's good eating. (Jenna).
This proves we can get the fish. (Kelly).

Negative characteristics, positive characteristics, playing the game and survival were the four main themes of the show *Survivor*. Each contestant went through one of the themes while they stayed on the island. These themes made up the game of *Survivor* and how each person lived their lives while playing the game. The four themes showed the way the people of the island stereotyped the women of *Survivor*. Feminist Theory helps explain the stereotypes portrayed of the women on the show as well as how some traditional stereotypes were subverted.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This study examined the way women were portrayed on the reality television series *Survivor*. *Survivor* showed human behavior in an extreme situation to the American television audience. *Survivor* participants became manipulative in an unfamiliar and harsh environment. “Not only does *Survivor* provide Americans audiences with entertainment, but the contestants reveal survival strategies, both physical and social, to endeavor to ‘outwit, outplay, and outlast’ their competition” (Tevan, 2004, p. 52). The contestants were forced into survival mode.

Qualitative methods were used to discover recurring themes. The themes were developed from conversations and interviews with and about the women contestants on the television show. This study found four different themes that reoccurred throughout the series: negative characteristics, positive characteristics, playing the game and survival. These four themes were the basis of how women were viewed by the other contestants.

Characteristics of the women of the island included many examples of how women were viewed by men and other women. Some of the sub-themes were contrary to established stereotypes of women. For example, because of the survivalist conditions, femininity for the women of the island was not present. Women did not worry about their appearances or attracting men. What was important for the women was the same as what

was important for men, trying to find something to eat and competing in the game. This was contrary to many traditional images of women on television. Researchers studying images of women in the media were “concerned about cultural definitions of femininity in the media which represent sex role stereotyping” (Humm, 1995, p. 93). The women of the island wanted to appear as strong and intelligent. They did not want their male counterparts to make them look weak and stupid. The women were portrayed as strong women instead of a stereotypical weak woman who cannot carry on with physical work. The women of the island often worked harder and longer than the males. Conversations between the contestants discussed this issue on several occasions. Some of the remarks concerning work were between women, some were between a man and woman, and some were interviews. No matter what how the issue was discussed, there was a consistent opinion that women worked harder than men.

Female bonding was also another aspect that emerged in the study. Women needed to talk to each other on a woman-to-woman basis. Friendship was a form of emotional bonding. The positive support of another woman often made the decision making process a little easier (Brown, 1991, p. 122). Women seemed to trust other women in the decision making process. Susan and Kelly bonded from the very first episode. They became quick friends and often counted on each other for physical and emotional support.

Feminists are often very concerned with the family “because it is a primary beneficiary and focus of women’s labor as well as the source of women’s most fundamental identity, that of mother” (Humm, 1995, p. 87). The women of the island often felt that the only people they could truly count on were their own family members.

Susan felt this especially when she was lonely. She stated on camera that her family was the only people she could count on.

The results of this study do show that women were at times portrayed negatively on reality television. Women were sometimes shown as catty and cruel throughout the series. Manipulation was the most significant aspect of how each woman was portrayed. The Machiavellian types of personalities came out through the course of the series. “An individual who is considered Machiavellian is willing to use deception and/or manipulative methods to achieve his or her goals” (Tevan, 2004, p. 53).

I believe the women were portrayed more positively than negatively on *Survivor*. Some comments were made about the women, but the women seemed to redeem themselves through the challenges. The women also appeared to be strong individuals with intelligent minds. Though there were negative moments, the women were portrayed more positively in the researcher’s opinion.

The main weakness of this study is it is an edited television show. Some comments and conversations may have been left out by the editors and the producers. This may be because of time limits or perceived interest to the public on the part of the producers. A way to prevent this would be to actually interview the cast members of *Survivor*. This is also a weakness because having access to all sixteen cast members would be hard for someone in Akron, Ohio.

Future research could examine the portrayal of woman in other reality shows. Some stereotypes may emerge depending on the type of show. For example, in *Survivor*, women had to be strong. In another type of reality show, such as *The Simple Life*, where the premise of the show is a rich, privileged young woman, Paris Hilton, is trying to live

a more normal, average life, the humor comes from her inadequacies rather than her strength as a woman. Another future research avenue would be a direct comparison of stereotypes on fictional programs versus stereotypes on reality programs.

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