

# Research Project: The Problems with Social Justice Warriors

By Bryant Burgos

# Social Justice Warriors

- Social justice warriors are referred to individuals who try to express and promote socially progressive views such as feminism, civil rights, or multiculturalism. In the past couple of years, we have been witnessing many SJWs pointing out “sexism”, and “racism” from multiple medias in today’s entertainment industry. These groups and or individuals at first began their campaign to improve the diversity within the type of people we see in media, such as putting more people of color in films, video games, etc., however, for a while now there has been many times where they have made this problem even worse. “Social Justice” was originally a positive phrase but later was turned into, “Social Justice Warrior”, a negative insult where we claim someone’s true motives are for their own personal gain rather than for the social issue that they claimed to be addressing. Some examples of this include Anita Sarkeesian a feminist who, despite trying to address sexism in video games, only accomplished improving her popularity and income, and left feminism with a bad reputation while completely being unable to resolve any of the issues she talks about. Social justice warriors would state one thing in the media in order to gain recognition and benefit themselves, while behind closed doors they don’t do anything and in some cases, they make things worse.
- This character type has been around for a few years, mostly since the 2010s, and are still appearing in social media to this day.

# Thesis Statement

- Social justice warriors in some cases do indeed have a lot of valid arguments, which they have supported with great facts and evidence, but, in recent history, many of their methods of expressing their views have become ultimately selfish, lazy, and naive, which as a result gave all social justice warriors, and those who support them, a bad reputation and are now seen as manipulative people despite it was only a select few who were truly responsible for these recent actions and not the entire group.

# Synopsis

- My paper focuses on the initial ideals of social justice warriors, and how their portrayal has changed from being a group of people who wanted to improve the diversity of race and genders in the media industry, into a group of individuals who are portrayed as manipulative liars, hypocrites, and selfish people. The types of sources that I'm using are to provide more evidence of social justice warriors using false information, using strategies to promote their own social agendas, lying to the public about what they are doing and not actually addressing the issues that they claimed to be fighting.

# Media examples

- Byerly, Carolyn M., and Karen Ross. *Women and media: A critical introduction*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.
- Daugherty, Meredith. "Wonder Woman's Lack of Armpit Hair Sparks Feminist Debate." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 23 Mar. 2017. Web. 30 Apr. 2017. <<http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2017/03/23/wonder-womans-lack-of-armpit-hair-sparks-feminist-debate/>>.
- Ohlheiser, Abby. "Why 'social Justice Warrior,' a Gamergate Insult, Is Now a Dictionary Entry." *The Washington Post*. WP Company, 07 Oct. 2015. Web. 14 Apr. 2017. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/10/07/why-social-justice-warrior-a-gamergate-insult-is-now-a-dictionary-entry/?utm\\_term=.75193809e055](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/10/07/why-social-justice-warrior-a-gamergate-insult-is-now-a-dictionary-entry/?utm_term=.75193809e055)
- Radner, Hilary, and Rebecca Stringer, eds. *Feminism at the movies: Understanding gender in contemporary popular cinema*. Routledge, 2012.
- Smelik, Anneke. "Feminist film theory." *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (1999).

# Media examples

- "The New Ghostbusters Movie Will Be Ruined By The Feminist Agenda." Return of Kings. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Apr. 2017. <<http://www.returnofkings.com/56056/the-new-ghostbusters-movie-will-be-ruined-by-the-feminist-agenda>>.
- "The World Is Revolting Against Hollywood's Awful Feminist Remake Of Ghostbusters Ghostbusters 3 Is Waking People up to the Issue of Feminist Propaganda in Movies." Return of Kings. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Apr. 2017. <<http://www.returnofkings.com/82236/the-world-is-revolting-against-hollywoods-awful-feminist-remake-of-ghostbusters>>.
- Winograd, Nathan J. "Shocking Photos: PETA's Secret Slaughter of Kittens, Puppies." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 02 Apr. 2013. Web. 14 Apr. 2017.
- Zoonen, Liesbet Van. *Feminist Media Studies*. London: Sage, 2008. Print.

# Self representation

- Feministfrequency. "Lingerie Is Not Armor - Tropes vs Women in Video Games." *YouTube*. YouTube, 06 June 2016. Web. 17 Apr. 2017. <[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jko06dA\\_x88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jko06dA_x88)>.

This video is done by a feminist who explains how women in video games are usually using revealing clothing instead of wearing clothes that look as though it can actually protect them. She stresses that these characters are in the middle of life risking moments that require clothing that can protect them from harm, however, they are instead wearing clothing that are just used to please the male gaze. Even in some games where the clothing are described as "strong" armor, it still looks very revealing compared to other armors that male characters wear that completely covers their bodies and looks like they can actually protect them from physical harm. I'm using this video to show how the video game media is guilty of trying to portray women as objects to gamers.

# Self representation

- Sarkeesian, Anita. "Women as Reward - Special DLC Mini-Episode." YouTube. YouTube, 14 Sept. 2015. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcqEZqBoGdM>

This video explains how women in video games were seen as rewards for the male player when they give them revealing clothing that are obtained via paid downloadable content or obtained free via preorder purchase. She states that this treats women as objects to make the male gamer feel like they own the virtual women. I'm using this video to show the negative portrayals of women in video games and how this is degrading them into objects for the male gaze.



# Critiques

- Thunderf00t. "Anita Sarkeesian- BUSTED!" *YouTube*. YouTube, 11 July 2014. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.  
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuRSaLZidWI&t=44s>>.

This video explains how Anita Sarkeesian is fabricating false information about gamers being encouraged to attack women out “pleasure”, and that some people are believing this information and supporting Anita while ignoring the faults that people are pointing out. I’m using this video to show how dishonest some social justice warriors are becoming and that people are blindly following this.

# Critiques

- Thunderf00t. "Anita Sarkeesian BUSTED! (Part 2)." *YouTube*. YouTube, 09 Sept. 2014. Web. 18 Apr. 2017.  
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF8su7GTGvw&t=2s>>.

This video details the dishonest information and behavior that feminist Anita Sarkeesian is conveying. It addresses a lot of false studies and information that Anita has stated. It shows that she might be taking money from people via donations for her to produce these content, however, the quality of her work doesn't seem to reflect those donations. I'm using this video to show how certain SJWs are tricking people with false information and studies. This is an example of how some individuals give feminism a bad reputation.

# Critiques

- Blistein, Jon. "Billy Corgan Compares 'Social Justice Warriors' to KKK." *Rolling Stone*. Rolling Stone, 19 Apr. 2016. Web. 15 Apr. 2017.  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/billy-corgan-compares-social-justice-warriors-to-cults-maoists-kkk-20160419>

In this article both Corgan and Jones speak out about how Social Justice Warriors are threatening free speech. Jones explains that social justice warriors are willing to attack anyone that they disagree with and he compares them to Cults, the KKK, and gives examples of how Klan members could just mistreat a black person and kill him only because he's black similar to how a Social Justice Warrior would attack a content creator for not expressing/sharing their social agenda. I'm using this article to stress how artists are fearful of being attacked by Social Justice Warriors.

# Critiques

- Woerner, Meredith. "Eli Roth's 'Green Inferno' Devours the Internet's 'social Justice Warriors'." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, 9 July 2015. Web. 14 Apr. 2017.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/herocomplex/la-et-hc-eli-roth-green-inferno-sjw-20150709-story.html>

This article is about a film writer who created a movie based off Social Justice Warriors and he expresses that these people are only going on social media to complain about things that they know a=nothing about and that they want people to believe that they are caring people who are interested in helping society however, he claims that these individuals are in reality don't want to bother themselves with the work and just tweet how "wrong" this or that is, and they aren't doing anything about it. He states that social activism is starting to get out of hand. I'm using this article to show the point of view of content creators towards SJWs.