

Sexism|Cinema Film Series: Fall 2021

Fifty+ years ago, the term “sexism” was coined. This film series considers ways in which sexism is embedded, endorsed, and/or challenged in the cinema. Together, these films featuring women as central protagonists offer an intriguing site for the analysis of representations of race/ethnicity, femininities, masculinities, and sexualities. Get more information about events through our website: <https://www.sexismcinema.com/>.

September 1, 2021: Hidden Figures (2016)

October 6, 2021: US (2019)

November 3, 2021: Fish Tank (2009)

December 1, 2021: Zola (2020)

Film Fact: Margot Lee Shetterly wrote the book, *Hidden Figures*, based on interviews with the Black women who worked at the Langley Research Center. In the book, Shetterly describes interviewing Katherine Johnson at her home, and notes that one of the objects on display in her living room was an American flag that had traveled to the Moon during the Apollo program.

Our Featured Speaker for Tonight

Dr. Raegan Higgins is an Associate Professor of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at Texas Tech University (TTU) and a Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Provost at TTU. Her current research focuses modeling prostate cancer treatment using the theory of time scales. Additionally, Dr. Higgins has a keen interest in increasing the number women and underrepresented minorities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). She is a proud alumna of Xavier University of Louisiana, where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Mathematics. In 2008, Dr. Higgins was one of the *first* two African-American women to earn a doctoral degree in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Nationally, Raegan is a co-director of the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program, which is a Presidential Award for STEM Mentoring recipient. EDGE aims to strengthen the ability of women students to successfully complete PhD programs in the mathematical sciences and place more women in visible leadership roles in the mathematics community. Additionally, Raegan is a co-founder of the website Mathematically Gifted and Black, which highlights the contributions and lives of Black mathematicians. In 2021, Dr. Higgins was awarded by the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) the Gweneth Humphreys Award for Mentoring.

Potential Questions for Discussion

1. How do both Black and White women experience sexism in the film?
2. Al Harrison (Kevin Costner) is a fictional character based on three directors who worked at NASA in this period. Knowing that he is not a real person, what do you think about his role in the film as an advocate for Katherine Johnson, and as a heroic figure?
3. What similarities and differences are there now compared to the 1960s for Black women who wish to pursue education and careers in STEM?
4. How does the film portray the women's intelligence and mathematical ability? How is that connected to the film's representation of sexism and racist oppression?
5. What do you think of the way the film presents the women's romantic, family, and community relationships?

Further Resources

García, H. A., Hotchkins, B. K., & McNaughtan, J. (2019). “Why Not?": How STEM identity development promotes Black transfer and transition. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 88(3), 343-357.

Lieway, M., Sharp, E., Gambrell, K., Medina, C., Reyes, P., & Nguyen, V. (2017). Hidden Figures: Calculated responses to sexism and racism in 1960s America. *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, 9, 607-613.

McGee, E. O., & Bentley, L. (2017). The troubled success of Black women in STEM. *Cognition and Instruction*, 35(4), 265-289.

Shetterly, M. L. (2016). *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race*. William Morrow and Company.

Thomas, D. (2017). Oscar-nominated “Hidden Figures” was whitewashed — but it didn't have to be. *Vice News*.

Sponsored by: Alamo Drafthouse, TTU's International Film Series, TTU Women's and Gender Studies, TTU's RISE (Risk Intervention and Safety Education), and The Humanities Center at Texas Tech

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Additional Resources



SUPPORT & REPORTING OPTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

OFFICE FOR STUDENT RIGHTS & RESOLUTION

SUB 232E | 806.742.7233 | titleix.ttu.edu
Reporting for sexual violence, interpersonal conflicts, harassment, and discrimination.
Online Reporting Available

RISK INTERVENTION & SAFETY EDUCATION (RISE)

SWC 204 | 806.742.2110 | rise.ttu.edu
Provide education and services in the following areas: Violence Prevention & Response, Safety, Wellness, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Gender & Sexuality
Online Reporting Available
Jane/John Doe Reporters

STUDENT COUNSELING CENTER

SWC 201 | 806.742.3674 | counseling.ttu.edu
Individual and group counseling
Walk-in Clinic Hours: M-F 12:30-3:30pm
Confidential Services

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

SWC | 806.743.2848 | www.ttuhscc.edu/studenthealth
On-campus medical care exclusively for TTU students. Quality care, right on campus.
Confidential Services

TTU POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 9-911 | Non: 806.742.3931
www.depts.ttu.edu/ttupd
File a report if incident occurred on-campus

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

COVENANT EMERGENCY ROOM

3615 19th St. Lubbock, Tx 79410 | 806.725.4288
Emergency health care and forensic examinations within 96 hours of sexual assault

LUBBOCK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911 | Non: 806.775.2865 | lubbockpolice.com
File a report if incident occurred off-campus

UMC EMERGENCY ROOM

602 Indiana Ave. Lubbock, Tx 79415 | 806.775.8200
Emergency health care and forensic examinations within 96 hours of sexual assault

VOICE OF HOPE LUBBOCK RAPE CRISIS CENTER

806.763.3232 | 806.763.7273 | voiceofhopelubbock.org
Crisis intervention, support, and following-up for survivors and family members



Call the Texas Tech
CRISIS helpline
806.742.5555
24/7/365 ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

TTU TITLE IX ADMINISTRATOR

Admin. Building 163 | 806.834.1949 | titleix.ttu.edu
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