



Gender Roles in The Office



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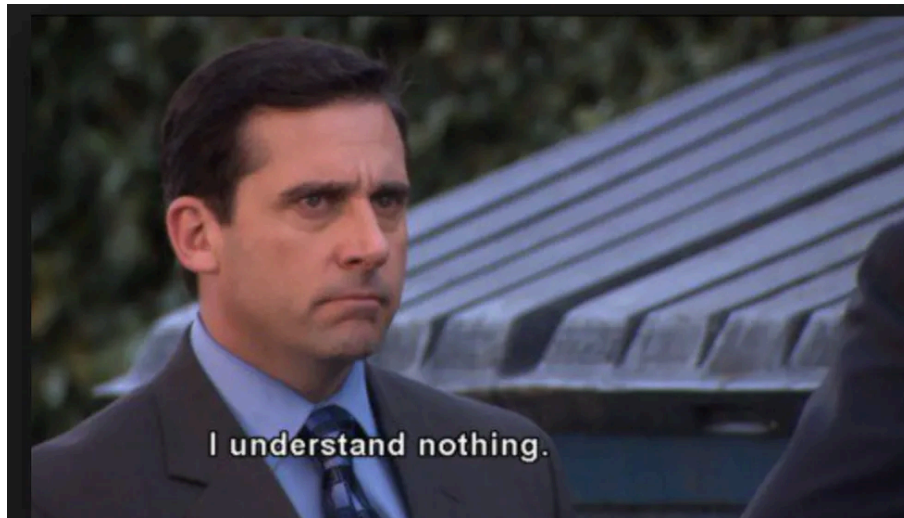
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While trying to get more usage of my monthly Netflix subscription, I have continued my slow journey through the seasons of The Office. I am only in the middle of season three, and it's been a year and a half. I will someday maybe be good at bingeing shows, but not yet.

Some of the prominent female characters in the show live up to the stereotypes often circulating their gender. For example, Pam is a secretary which is often a job associated with women. The head of the office, Michael Scott's boss is a woman, named Jan.

The focus of the home life of those in the office ranges from nothing at all to very little. From what I have viewed so far the lives of the employees at home are unimportant to the plot of the show. This is unique because in most career themed shows involving women their home lives are often made to be a big part of the show and themes presented in the show. Their identity in the show is solely based on their time at work.

In this past season there have been a broad range of women characters who are not on the show for very long, but who leave impacting messages. There is a new mother who breastfeeds her baby in the office during one episode. Many of the people disapproved and made ongoing inappropriate jokes about it. It was the worst. In the most recent episode I finished Michael Scott hires a stripper for a bachelor party at the office. The men in the office make a big fuss over how they want her to look and than judge her extensively once she arrives. They also never referred to her by her name, but instead called her "stripper".



The men in the office constantly make sexist jokes throughout each episode. At one point Dwight is quoted saying “Last night I had a dream that the number two was the most valued number in the world. The vice-president had all the power, athletes fought for silver medals, and women were considered the best gender!” Sometimes you just have to cringe on through it.



Written by Bethany Hegener Marsch

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