

Chinese Representation in Media

William Mak - 998992988

June, 24, 2014

Various cultural groups have a wide range of representations in media, their representations cause associations or stereotypes to be made with their respective groups. Specifically within the representation of Asians within media, I've seen that they are often a minority within non-Asian media. An example of this would be from the TV series *Lost* which finished airing several years ago. Within this show there were a group of airline passengers who became stranded on an island. Within this group there were only two Asian passengers, which definitely made them the minority of the group. While in another TV series 'Gilded Chopsticks' a Hong Kong TV drama set in ancient China there were no other cultural group except the Chinese. It is then in my opinion that from my experience with media Asians are neither over or under represented. In the context of *Lost*, the flight was from Australia a country whose population is not majorly Asian, the survivors of the crash were also tourists which made sense for the show. If instead a majority of the passengers were Asian then it would seem that they were over represented, or if there weren't any at all then it would appear that they were over represented. While in the other example; being in ancient China it would be illogical if Asians were a minority. Therefore then Asians are neither over or under represented in media, they are represented in a logical and adequate way.

It's also known that with each cultural group there comes with it various associations, and these associations come with their own connotations some negative for example there is an entire comedy series on youtube devoted to 'educating' Asians on how to drive. The video continues to show several other stereotypes, squinted eyes, bowing, having smaller genitalia, being hard to tell apart and clasping one's hands as a greeting. While this video is very offensive these associations are negative but don't show up as often in mass media and is more likely to be found in comedy. Of course there are also associations that are positive, for example in the *Rush Hour* series Jackie Chan plays a character that fills several stereotypes of Asians; being good at kung fu, drives a taxi, soft spoken, being good at math and overworking. These traits are generally positive but can still be viewed as negative depending on one's point of view. Overall it can be seen that Asian representation in media is not over or under represented. Generally the media shows a decent balance of positive and negative stereotypes. I think media in general is also quite aware of the stereotypes they make as seen in this Video