



Research Trends to Health: Cinema Critics

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Abstract

Cinema has become an important medium for representing health, illness, medical practices, psychological experiences, and social attitudes toward well-being. In recent years, research in cinema criticism has increasingly focused on the relationship between cinematic representation and health-related issues. This study examines emerging research trends in health-oriented cinema criticism, with particular attention to the ways films portray physical and mental health, disability, disease, healthcare professionals, patients, hospitals, epidemics, and public health concerns. Cinema can influence how audiences understand illness and healthcare by presenting narratives that evoke empathy, awareness, fear, stigma, or social reflection. Consequently, researchers from film studies, sociology, psychology, public health, medical humanities, and communication studies are increasingly examining the cultural and social implications of health representation in films. Contemporary research also explores gender, class, disability, aging, family relationships, and inequalities in access to healthcare as represented through cinematic narratives. The growth of digital platforms and streaming services has expanded access to regional, national, and international cinema, creating new possibilities for comparative and interdisciplinary research. Methodological approaches such as thematic analysis, narrative analysis, visual analysis, discourse analysis, audience studies, and digital content analysis are increasingly relevant to this field. The study highlights the importance of critically examining both accurate and stereotypical representations of health and illness. Understanding these research trends can contribute to more responsible cinema criticism and provide insights into the relationship between popular culture, health communication, social awareness, and public perceptions of healthcare.

Keywords: Cinema Critics, Health, Film Studies, Health Representation, Public Health, Mental Health, Medical Humanities, Cinema Research, Health Communication, Digital Cinema.

