

Abstract:

This bachelor thesis deals with the depiction of birthing woman in film through the perspective of gender and feminist theories. The first part makes the reader familiar with the history of obstetrics in relation to the issues of gender. It sketches a parallel between the social roots of obstetrics and impulses for the first feminist movement. In the second part the thesis looks closer into the constructive and performative nature of gender and gender roles and most importantly it deals with benefits and pitfalls of motherhood according to feminist theoreticians. For this purpose, it introduces selected concepts of Shulamith Firestone, Adrienne Rich and Julia Kristeva. The third part analyses potential reasons, why the portrayal of childbirth has been historically pushed aside and why, as a consequence, there is no female childbirth narrative, which would equip women with means to express their experience. The fourth part seeks this missing narrative in particular examples among nonfiction as well as fiction works from contemporary cinema as well as from its history.