TV Night: *The TV Scientist*
https://genomicssalon.wordpress.com
Genomics Salon, Nov 17, 2016
Eliah Overbey (Genome Sciences)

Next Event
Salon VIII: Direct-to-consumer genetic testing
Thursday Dec 1, 4:30pm
Sarah Nelson (Public Health Genetics)

> Announcements about the Genomics Salon will be sent through the UW genomics salon google group.
>
> To join, go to:
> https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/uw-genomics-salon

Comedy

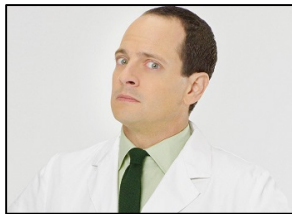### Better Off Ted   (2009 - 2010)

A pair of scientists working in R&D for an ethically questionable company, Veridian Dynamics.

Lem
Scientist

Phil
Scientist

Ted
The Manager

Veronica
The Boss

The Big Bang Theory   (2007 - Present)

One of the most popular shows on television, winning 8 Emmys, 10 People's Choice Awards, a Golden Globe, and a Nickelodeon Kids Choice Award. These clips explore scientific outreach, the limits on the knowledge of a scientist, how to obtain funding, and how to drop some sweet science burns.

Sheldon
Theoretical Physicist

Amy
Biologist

Penny
Waitress
Actress
Pharmaceutical Sales Rep

Leonard
Experimental Physicist

Drama

Sherlock   (2010 - Present)

This story of Sherlock Holmes in modern society has one 9 Emmy Awards. Our scenes come from a single episode: The Hounds of Baskerville.
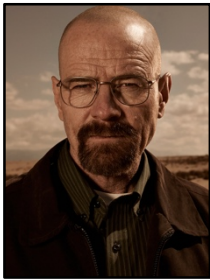

Sherlock

Watson

Scientists of Baskerville

Breaking Bad   (2008 - 2013)

When a mild-mannered high school chemistry teacher is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, he starts to manufacture crystal meth to raise money for his family. His motivations shift as he establishes his empire. Winner of 12 Emmys, 2 Golden Globes. In 2013, it entered the *Guinness World Records* as the most critically acclaimed show of all time.

Walt
AKA Heisenberg

Jesse
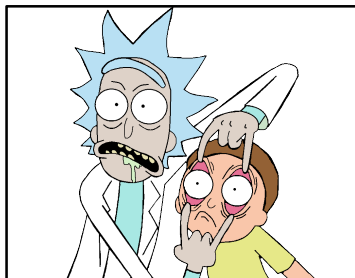Walt's Partner

Skylar
Walt's Wife

Tuco
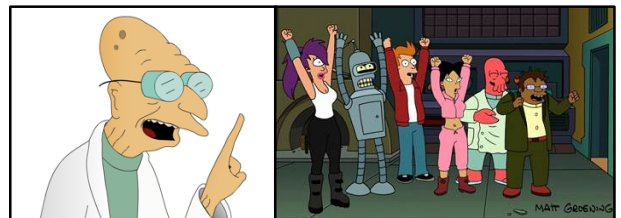Drug Dealer

Cartoons

Rick and Morty
(2013 - Present)

Grandparenting at its unhinged finest.
              - The New York Times

AVERAGE TOMATOMETER ❓   All Critics | Top Critics   AVERAGE AUDIENCE SCORE ❓
🍅 **100%**   ███████   🍿 **97%** liked it

Rick   Morty

Futurama
(1999 - 2013)

6 Emmy Awards.

Professor Farnsworth   Delivery Team

Had one of the most scientifically educated writing staffs of all time, holding 3 PhDs, 7 masters degrees, and over 50 cumulative years at Harvard.

Archetypes of Scientists

In 2003, Dr. Roslynn Haynes (Dept Art and Social Sciences, Univ of New South Wales) reviewed literature spanning the 1500-1900s to create seven primary archetypes of scientists. During this salon, we will watch TV clips and discuss **whether these archetypes hold true in modern television**.

The Evil Alchemist

Engaged in illegal research

Proud

Secretive

Arrogant

Power-crazy

Frightening
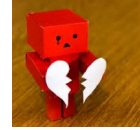
The Mad, Bad, Dangerous Scientist

Ruthless

Megalomaniac

Produce cataclysmic results on unimaginable scales

See no reason for the world to continue

Create doomsday situations

The Helpless Scientist

Unable to control the outcome of their work

Victim of their own discoveries

Likely ignorant of the sociological impacts of their work

The Foolish Scientist

Type of satire of a scientist

Obsessed with discovery instead of the truth, leading them to making false conclusions

The Inhuman Researcher

Sacrifices emotions and human relationships for obsessive pursuit of scientific materialism

Loss of the ability to appreciate natural beauty

Naive optimism that knowledge is inevitably good for us all

Delusional about how their research will benefit humanity

Fanatical desire to complete a project no matter the human cost

Ethics are irrelevant

Scientist as an Adventurer

Science as a tool for lucrative commercial results

Use science as a powerful tool

Bravery

Endurance

Optimism

Defeat the marvels of nature with the marvels of science

The Noble Scientist

Hero or savior of society

Their knowledge is directed to benefit society

Internationalism

Open sharing of knowledge

Team-oriented research

Not pursuing wealth and fame

Bringing order to chaos

Revisions on these Archetypes
In 2014, Haynes wrote a new paper with some revisions to her original archetypes.

Portrayal of Women

Haynes argues that these archetypes do not hold true for the portrayal of female scientists and proposed a unique female scientist archetype.

Do you agree with this archetype proposal? Can you think of any female scientists on TV that better fit one of the primary seven literature archetypes?

The End of the Mad, Bad, Dangerous Scientist?
According to Haynes "The 'popularity' of the mad scientist as both fictional character and movie star has declined because we no longer need him. The new face of terror is the terrorist."

The Female Scientist

Usually resolve problems, despite attacks on their work and their integrity

But will the 'Mad, Bad, Dangerous Scientist' make a comeback? Consider the new TV show CRISPR that was recently pitched by J-Lo.

"*C.R.I.S.P.R.*— aka 'clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats' — is a procedural thriller set five minutes into the future that explores **the next generation of terror**: DNA hacking. If the project moves forward, each episode will explore a bio-attack and crime — from a genetic assassination attempt on the president to the framing of an unborn child for murder. The show's central character is a scientist with the CDC who is paired with an FBI agent. In the same vein of *Castle*, romance will blossom between the scientist and the FBI agent as **they team to bring down a diabolical genius with a twisted God complex**: her former boss. The drama will see mentor and protégé battle for control over the human genome in a game of cat and mouse in which the future of our species may rest and all disease could one day be eradicated."

Sources:
[1] Haynes, R. (2003). From Alchemy to Artificial Intelligence: Stereotypes of the Scientist in Western Literature. *Public Understanding of Science, 12*(3), 243-253. doi:10.1177/0963662503123003
[2] Haynes, R. D. (2014). Whatever happened to the 'mad, bad scientist? Overturning the stereotype. *Public Understanding of Science, 25*(1), 31-44. doi:10.1177/0963662514535689
[3] Goldberg, L. (2016, October 18). Jennifer Lopez Sets Futuristic Bio-Terror Drama at NBC (Exclusive). Retrieved November 17, 2016, from http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/jennifer-lopez-sets-futuristic-bio-939509