PT Violent Character
PT Violent Death KK ①

Death Sonata

Everybody must die, right? Wrong. In the stories we tell, death is a fate of symbolic significance bestowed upon the few who deserve it. It can designating martyrs, tragic heroes and other victims of injustice, or villains and other victims of justice, or just plain victims. [Not life, arbitrary, tradition, formula, social typing. Violence demo of power]

PRIME TIME VIOLENCE, MAJOR CHARACTERS, BY GENDER

	1967-91 Totals	1967-70	1971-75	1976-80	1981-85	1986-91
Males	(3464)	(506)	(891)	(839)	(713)	(515)
inv.%	60	62	60	60	60	55
viol%	47	48	50	49	49	42
vict%	51	54	51	50	54	44
kill%	11	13	15	9	8	9
killed%	5	5	8	4	4	4
vv	-1.08	-1.14	-1.11	-1.03	-1.09	-1.04
kk	2.18	2.51	2.03	2.30	1.98	2.33
Fem.	(1652)	(184)	(347)	(372)	(379)	(376)
inv.%	42	42	37	45	43	42
viol%	28	26	21	32	29	31
vict%	32	32	29	35	34	31
kill%	4	4	4	4	4	5
killed%	3	4	3	2	2	3
vv	-1.15	-1.21	-1.38	-1.11	-1.16	-1.01
kk	1.62	1.00	1.21	2.11	1.75	1.96

July 22, 1992

Nejat: It would be helpful if for next Wednesday (29th, 2 pm) you would read this draft for comment, and prepare the following tables:

1. Minor characters - same as what you have for majors, but each time period for totals only, demographics for all years only. (Include K% for both new major and minor tables.

2. Demographic tables for all years only, showing Prime Time all, major, and minor, N's and percents. Separate tables, same categories, but showing only per week numbers (we should talk about that).

3. Later same for Weekend daytime.

Possible format for N. 2 (Demographic tables). Note change in order (Char. Type last)

	All						Prime Time Major					
	T		M		F		T		M		F	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Demo categories as before, but Char type (not nationality) last												

If you want to talk to me or see me, I will be in the office Thursday (23rd) and at home Friday and over the weekend. My home number is 642 7479. gg

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Partial draft of results only. More, and interpretation, to come.

We studied a total of 5126 major characters who appeared in annual samples of prime-time network dramatic programs from 1967 through 1991, a period of 24 years.

[Here show a Table of Ns by demographic characteristics only, so we can discuss overall distribution. Include "weekly" average for each type. See formula!]

Prime time violents

The most violent characters (those are most likely to commit violence as a proportion of their own demographic or dramatic categories) are "bad," 74 percent; "foreign" (not-U.S.), 52 percent; male, 47 percent; lower class, 46 percent; and young, 44 percent.

Among males, who commit most of the violence (47 percent of males compared to 28 percent of females inflict violence on others), the same groups have a higher rate, in the same order: "bad" 78 percent; "foreign" 60 percent; lower class 54 percent; and young 52 percent of each group committing violence.

Of course, many who commit violence also suffer violence. The ranking of males involved in violence as either violent or victim or both is: "bad" men 84 percent of all males; "foreign," 76 percent; lower class 70 percent; young 66 percent, unmarried 63 percent; and white, 60 percent.

So the composite profile of prime-time violent males is that of "bad, "foreign," lower class young men. Unmarried and white men are also frequently involved. In other words, more then eight out of ten "bad" men, almost eight out of ten "foreign men," seven out of ten lower class men and almost the same percentage of young men are involved in violence, mostly inflicting it.

Although women in prime time are much less likely to get involved in violence than men ("only" 31 percent compared to 51 percent for men), they are involved in different ways. "Bad" women are of course the most violent (61 percent), followed by young, white, unmarried, and"foreign" women (all about 30 percent or less of their respective categories). There the similarity ends. The major difference is in <u>how</u> they are involved. To discuss the nature of their

relationships to violence, we have to consider dimensions of involvement.

Dimensions of violence

Violence is a complex scenario. It involves victims as well as violents. It demonstrates degrees of vulnerability as well as of power. The relationship between violence as an expression of power and as a form of victimization is what we call "risk ratio." It is perhaps the most sensitive measure of the social dynamics of violence and the cultivation of relative degrees power, risk and vulnerability for different groups. To obtain a risk ratio, we need to compare the number of violents in any group with the number of victims in that group, and divide the larger by the smaller number. If the number of violents is larger, we will consider that a positive ratio in the sense that the members of the group, as a whole, inflict more violence on others (in any group) than they themselves suffer. If the number of victims is larger, the resulting ratio will be a negative ratio in the sense that the members of the group suffer victimization (from any source) more often than they are written into scripts as inflicting violence upon others.

Furthermore, the world of prime time television is animated by characters playing not only many different roles but also playing roles of different degrees of importance and in different dramatic genres. For a fuller understanding of its dynamics, we will have to compare fully developed characters to minor and background (but still speaking-part) characters, and weekend daytime as well as prime time programs.

The risks of life in prime time

As 51 percent of men commit violence and 60 percent are victims of violence (for exact percentages to two decimal points see Table x), the risk ratio is -1.08. That means that for every 10 men who commit violence, about 11 fall victim to it.

Boys are the group of males most likely to be victimized. While less than one-third of all boy characters

commit violence, nearly half (46 percent) become its victims. In other words, for every 10 violent boys, there are 16 boy victims. That is the second largest negative victimization ratio of all groups, and far more unfavorable than all other male groups (whose vulnerability is closer to the average for all males).

Women, however, fare differently. Overall, 28 percent commit violence and 32 percent suffer it, yielding a risk ratio of -1.15. While that is only slightly more negative than that of male characters (-1.08), specific groups of women make up the bottom of the prime-time violence pecking order. For every 10 violent characters, male or female, the average number of victims in the same group is:

Lower class women.....20
Boys.....16
"Foreign" women.....15
Children in general.....15
Young women.....14
Old women.....13
Upper class women.....13
Married women.....13
"Good" women.....12
Nonwhite women.....12

There are very few groups with a "positive" risk ratio and even those are not as high as are the negative. The top of the pecking order, however, is dominated by groups of men, with one notable exception. "Bad" women, the most violent of the gender, are also the most likely to get away with violence, at least (as we shall see) until turns lethal. For every ten victims of violence, women or men, the number of those who inflict violence on others is:

[More to come]

Death Tables

TABLE 1: Violence, Killing, and the Theme of Death In Prime Time Dramatic Programs (1978 — 1996)

Year	Number of Pgms	Percent with Violence	Percent with Killing	Percent with theme of Death
ABC,CBS,NBC				
1978	63	74.6	20.6	22.2
1979	64	70.3	23.4	32.9
1980	64	73.4	21.9	29.7
1981	65	80.0	26.2	24.6
1982	77	63.6	20.8	32.5
1983	63	73.0	23.8	25.4
1984	65	78.5	36.9	33.9
1985	67	79.1	34.3	41.7
1986	67	71.6	32.3	46.3
1987	75	74.7	29.2	29.4
1988	77	74.0	28.4	40.3
1989	69	56.5	31.9	27.5
1990	54	74.1	29.6	17.0
1991	61	62.3	24.6	19.7
1992	60	65.0	20.0	13.4
1993	57	64.9	21.1	14.1
1994	48	75.0	16.7	27.1
1995	116	54.3	23.8	23.3
1996	127	66.1	25.2	37.8
1973 - 1996	1,339	70.1	25.8	28.4
FOX				
1993	27	74.1	33.3	18.5
1994	27	88.9	48.1	22.2
1995	34	82.4	28.1	35.3
1996	29	72.4	44.8	41.4
1993 - 96 Fox	90	81.2	38.6	29.4

Source: *Cultural Indicators Project*

TABLE 2: The Theme of Death
In Dramatic Programs on Television and the Movies

	Number of Programs	Percent in which theme of Death is Significant
Prime Time, ABC, CBS, NBC (1978-1996)	1,339	28.4
Prime Time, FOX (1993-1996)	117	29.4
Nikclodcon (Nik at Nitc, 1995-1996)	209	4.7
Movies, top 20 (1994-1995)	40	60.0
Music Videos, MTV (1995-1996)	1,080	29.5
Music Videos, BET (1995-1996)	653	20.8
Daytime Talk Shows (1995)	48	14.6

Source: *Cultural Indicators Project*

TABLE 3: Killers and Victims of Killing
In Prime Time Dramatic Programs
Major Characters (1978 — 1996)

Year	Percent of Major Characters		
	Killers	Killed	Involved in Killing*
ABC,CBS,NBC			
1978	4.7	3.1	7.9
1979	5.5	2.3	6.9
1980	4.4	2.2	4.8
1981	4.6	2.3	5.6
1982	4.9	2.8	6.5
1983	8.7	1.5	9.7
1984	8.1	6.8	12.7
1985	8.3	4.1	11.1
1986	11.2	3.4	12.9
1987	5.9	3.2	7.4
1988	7.0	3.8	10.3
1989	8.6	3.4	10.9
1990	3.8	2.5	5.7
1991	8.4	4.2	11.4
1992	6.1	1.4	6.1
1993	2.4	1.8	4.2
1994	1.5	1.5	3.0
1995	6.9	2.1	8.0
1996	6.8	3.2	8.8
1973 - 1996	6.2	2.9	8.1
FOX			
1993	13.6	8.5	18.6
1994	11.4	5.7	14.3
1995	7.4	4.9	11.1
1996	12.2	6.7	16.7
1993 - 96 Fox	11.2	6.5	15.2

* As killer, as victim of killing, or both.

Source: *Cultural Indicators Project*

TABLE 4: Killers and Victims of Killing
In Prime Time Dramatic Programs
Three Major Networks, 1995-1996

Major Characters

	Not Involved	Involved	As Killer	As Killed
N	575	53	43	17
	%	%	%	%
GENDER				
Male	57.0	73.6	79.1	70.6
Female	42.6	26.4	20.9	29.4
AGE				
Under 18	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
18 - 44	69.2	58.5	55.8	70.6
45 - 64	16.0	30.2	32.6	23.5
65 & over	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
RACE				
White	84.2	73.6	69.8	64.7
Hisp.&People of color	13.0	24.5	30.2	29.4
SOCIAL CLASS				
Upper	5.0	17.0	18.6	11.8
Middle	92.7	79.2	76.7	88.2
Lower	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
MARITAL STATUS				
Indeterminate	19.7	26.4	25.6	35.3
Married, cohabit	23.5	24.5	23.3	29.4
Not Married	56.9	49.1	51.2	35.3

All Characters (Major and Minor)

	Not Involved	Involved	As Killer	As Killed
N	3,656	165	88	89
	%	%	%	%
GENDER				
Male	60.6	80.0	85.2	76.4
Female	39.1	19.4	13.6	23.6
AGE				
Under 18	11.3	4.2	1.1	6.7
18 - 44	64.3	63.6	65.9	61.8
45 - 64	18.9	24.8	25.0	25.8
65 & over	2.7	1.2	0.0	2.2
RACE				
White	79.5	75.2	69.3	76.4
Hisp.&People of color	18.8	23.0	28.4	22.5
SOCIAL CLASS				
Upper	2.4	8.5	12.5	4.5
Middle	96.2	89.7	85.2	94.4
Lower	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.1
MARITAL STATUS				
Indeterminate	55.6	52.1	46.6	58.4
Married, cohabit	11.4	18.8	15.9	21.3
Not Married	33.1	29.1	37.5	20.2

TABLE 5: Heroes/Villains and Success/Failure of Killers and Victims of Killing in Prime Time Dramatic Programs Three Major Networks, 1995-1996

	Major Characters			
	Not Involved	Involved	As Killer	As Killed
N	575	53	43	17
	%	%	%	%
HEROES AND VILLAINS				
% Heroes	20.0	15.1	18.6	0.0
% Villains	2.8	43.4	46.5	52.9
Villains per 10 Heroes	1	29	25	Villains only
SUCCESS AND FAILURE				
% Successful	50.4	24.5	27.9	5.9
% Failure	13.7	60.0	55.8	88.2
Failures per 10 Success	3	24	20	149

	All Characters (Major and Minor)			
	Not Involved	Involved	As Killer	As Killed
N	3,656	165	88	89
	%	%	%	%
HEROES AND VILLAINS				
% Heroes	6.3	6.7	10.2	2.2
% Villains	3.2	32.7	48.9	21.3
Villains per 10 Heroes	5	49	48	97
SUCCESS AND FAILURE				
% Successful	35.8	13.3	19.3	5.6
% Failure	13.9	67.9	60.2	77.5
Failures per 10 Success	4	51	31	138