



**Sick and Selfish: Psychocentrism in  
Cinematic Depictions of Young Adult  
Coresidence**

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## Young Adult Coresiders on Film

- Media portrayals have depicted young adult coresiders in a simplistic, negative light.
- Researchers highlighting such depictions have only briefly mentioned film portrayals, and these tend to be pre-2010.
- How, then, has coresidence been portrayed in films released between 2010-2020? And, in these films, how is the “**WHY** is coresidence occurring” portrayed?

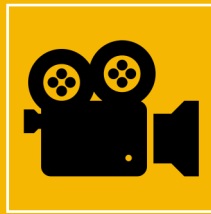
## Our approach



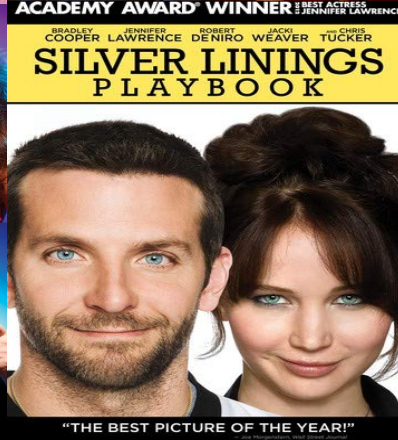
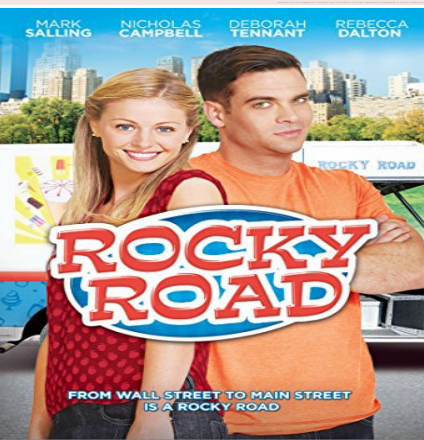
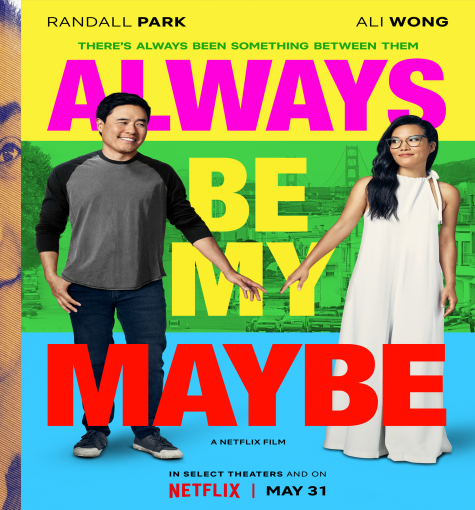
The present study adopts a social constructionist epistemology and treats films as cultural texts – as audiovisual stories. Our focus was on the story the films told rather than specific filmic elements.



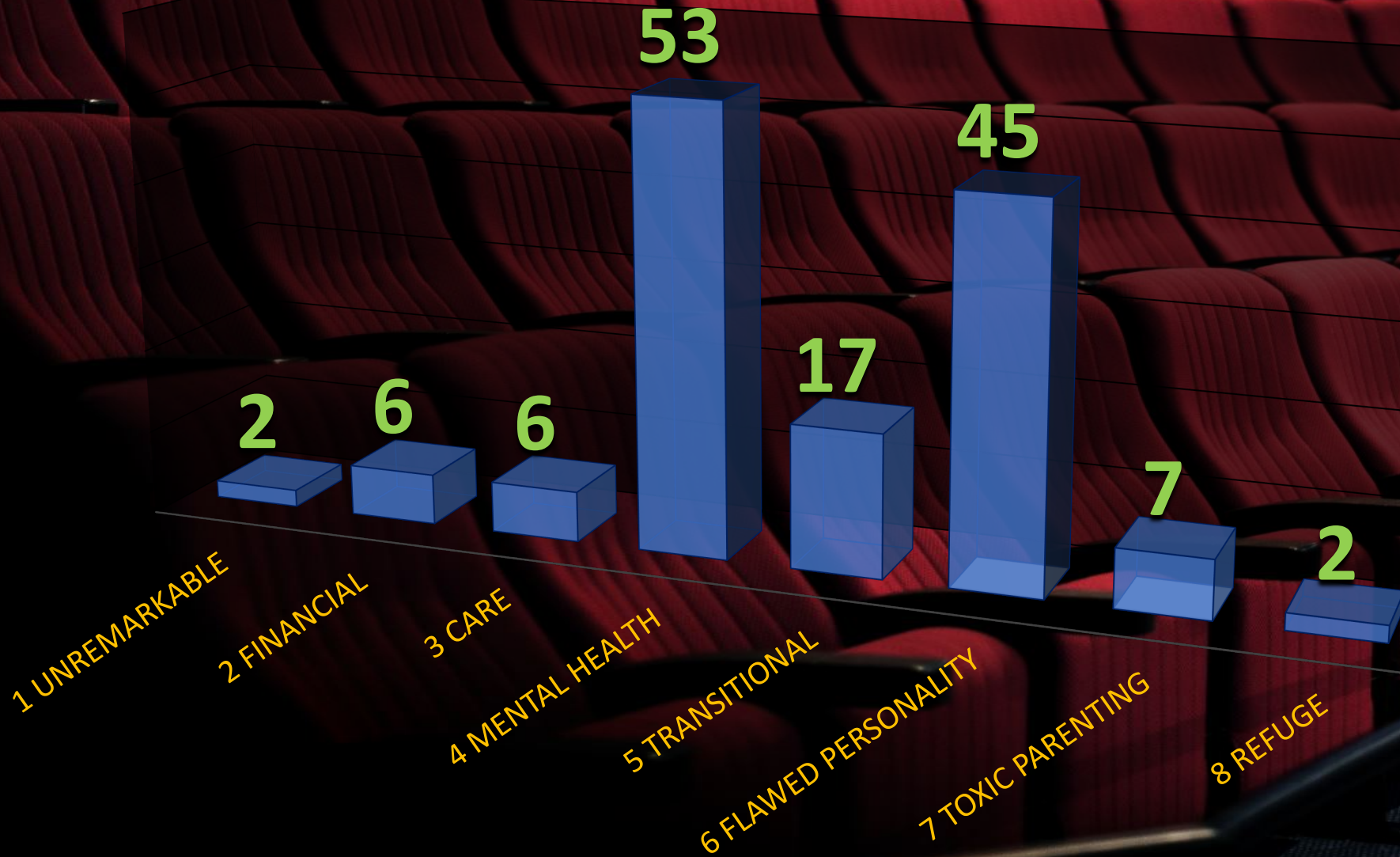
It is guided by Margrit Schreier's approach to qualitative content analysis – which serves as a means to systematically categorize data, and encourages moving beyond this categorization into interpretation.



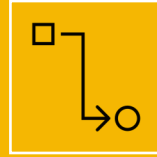
We examined 18 films – using a clear search criteria - featuring a protagonist or deuteragonist who is a coresider, and developed a coding frame to answer our research question.



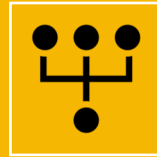
# Findings



# Psychocentrism



The “cultural corollary of neoliberalism”



Pathologization and Responsibilization strip away social, economic, and political context, and render complex problems as pathologies and responsibilities of an individual.



Systemic inequalities ignored or dismissed.



Coresiding as the result of mental illness or deeply flawed personalities frames the living arrangement as an inherently negative state.

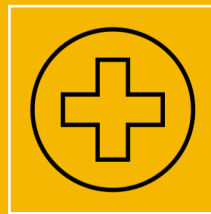
# Implications



The dominant portrayals of why coresidence occurs remain discordant with the picture from available data on what is known about American and Canadian youth coresiding with their parents.



Portrayals of coresidence as the result of individual irresponsibility or illness removes, or at least distracts from the structural issues, and effectively blames young adults who live with their parents.



Such depictions of young adulthood establishes the achievement of residential independence as a necessity for all those who are not sick or selfish.



Thank You!

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