

# Supplemental material

Featuring in “BONUS Pale, male and stale? Representation of scientists on Netflix and Disney+, Chelsea Tripp reports | WeAreSTS” <[ucl.ac.uk/sts/podcast](http://ucl.ac.uk/sts/podcast)>

WeAreSTS episode.

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## Data

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The 18 shows mentioned within this podcast episode are as follows:

### Disney+

**Five out of nine** science TV shows and films on Disney+ when typing in ‘science’ in the search bar were inclusive in the sense they had individuals from different races and genders within the role of scientist:

**Number 1: National Geographic Science Fair (2018)**, a film tracking the progress of a diverse group of high school students competing to win The International Science and Engineering Fair. This documentary included young men and women of colour and young black women and men from all over the world, which made it quite an inclusive film to watch.

**Number 2: Star Wars: The Bad Batch (2021)**, an animated TV series which follows the story of ‘the bad batch’ a group of clone troopers or soldiers with genetic mutations that are involved in different missions. This TV show was included as representative with Gwendoline See-Hian Yeo, a Singaporean actress voicing Nala Se, the chief medical scientist involved in the cloning process of soldiers. In spite of having a Singaporean woman voicing Nala Se, as it is an animation we do not see her on screen and her character is not even human but an alien, which makes Star Wars: The Bad Batch bittersweet in its representation.

**Number 3: Star Wars: The Mandalorian (2019-2020)**, a TV series which involves The Mandalorian, a bounty hunter, fetching bounty called ‘The Child’ or Grogu, but instead of giving The Child to the villainous Moff Gideon for experimentation and extraction of his powers, The Mandalorian vows to protect him. This TV series was deemed representative as Iranian-American Omid Abtahi was in the role of scientist Doctor Pershing, who observed and conducted minimal experimentation on The Child.

**Number 4: Star Wars: The Clone Wars (2008-2020)**, which is an animated spin-off from the Star Wars films and has 7 seasons, therefore I did not watch all of them. However from watching a few episodes and reading the episode summaries, the TV series follows the battle between good (Jedi Knights) and evil (the Confederacy of Independent Systems or Separatists). The TV series was

counted as representative as there was one female scientist, alien chief medical scientist Nala Se voiced by Gwendoline See-Hian Yeo Singaporean actress. **In the podcast I made an error and stated there was two female scientists, Nala Se and Jenna Arbor, however Jenna Arbor is not present in this animation.**

**Number 5: Wandavision (2021)**, a spin-off from the Marvel Cinematic Universe that follows the story of Wanda Maximoff and her creation of a false reality after her partner Vision is killed by villainous titan Thanos. This show was deemed as representative with one white female 'scientist' in the form of character Darcy Lewis, played by Kat Dennings, who has a PhD in astrophysics and was an intern for scientist Erik Selvig and assistant to astrophysicist Jane Foster who does not appear in Wandavision.

**Number 6: The Falcon and The Winter Soldier (2021)**, another spin off from the Marvel Cinematic Universe that follows the unlikely friendship of Sam Wilson (The Falcon) and James Buchanan 'Bucky' Barnes (The Winter Soldier) in order to bring down terrorist organisation 'The Flag-Smashers' who are in possession of a serum that gives them super strength. **This show was not representative**, with the scientist who re-created the soldier super serum being a white man, Dr Wilfred Nagal, played by Olli Haaskivi.

**Number 7: Marvel Avengers Assemble (2012)**, a film which follows the formation of a group of superheroes, the 'Avengers' in order to save New York City from the schemes of villain Loki and an alien army invasion. **This show was not representative**, with the main scientific figures being white men, including astrophysicist Professor Erik Selvig played by Stellan Skarsgard and Dr Bruce Banner who specialises in biochemistry and is played by Mark Ruffalo.

**Number 8: Futurama (1999-2013)**, an animated TV series depicting life on Earth but in the future, following a group of employees who work at a delivery company. Despite Amy Wong being noted as an astrophysics student, and other places noting her as a scientist I felt the show did not make it clear enough and for this reason I have not counted this as representative of female scientists. **The show was not representative**, as it favoured the portrayal of white men in lab coats as the more obviously recognisable scientists, with Professor Farnsworth voiced by Billy West and Sergio Graziani, alongside Professor Wernstrom voiced by David Herman.

**Number 9: Science of Stupid (2014-)** a comedic TV series that highlights the science behind silly stunts and sports gone wrong. I only watched the first episode as there are seven seasons within this TV series, however there was no explicit portrayal of scientists or researchers in the first episode, therefore **I did not include this as relevant** to the investigation of representation of scientists on screen.

## Netflix

**Four out of the nine** science TV shows and films on Netflix when typing in 'science' in the search bar were inclusive in the sense they had individuals from different races and genders within the role of scientist:

**Number 1: The Universe (2007-2011)**, is a documentary TV series discussing space and includes opinions from experts in astronomy and astrophysics. As there are several seasons I only watched the first episode, however **this TV series was representative** as it included two women, Debra Fischer Professor of Astronomy and Beth Biller Astronomy researcher at the Institute for Astronomy.

**Number 2: Connected- The Hidden Science of Everything (2020)**, is a documentary TV series investigating nature, science and how it all connects us to the Earth. Only watching the first episode which discussed animals and their importance to how we live, **the episode was representative** included female animal behaviour and welfare researcher Dr Emma Baxter and Sarah Greely a Conservationist coordinator.

**Number 3: 2036 Origin Unknown (2018)** a film in which a scientist called 'Mack' or Mackenzie Wilson supervises a mission to Mars using artificial intelligence. **This film was deemed as representative** as the main protagonist was a female scientist, played by Katee Sackhoff.

**Number 4: Emily's Lab (2020)** a TV show in which science is made fun and directed towards children through simple science experiments using things that can be found at home. I only watched the first episode, however the main protagonists that are involved in doing the scientific experiments include children from different races and genders, **which is more representative** than numbers 1, 2 and 3.

**Number 5: Bill Nye: Science Guy (2017)** a film documenting Bill Nye and his attempt to inspire more faith in science and discussions about climate denial. This was **not representative**, as it was mainly about Bill Nye's (who is a white man) journey to inspire the audience.

**Number 6: Breaking Boundaries the Science of our Planet (2021)** a documentary film which similarly to number 5, discusses the issue of climate change and its impact on biodiversity and possible solutions to help prevent further biodiversity extinction. **This film was no representative** as the main scientists or protagonists were white men: Naturalist David Attenborough and Environmental Scientist Johan Rockstrom.

**Number 7: Mystery Science Theatre 3000 The Gauntlet (2017-2018)**, a TV series in which season 12, the most current season was present on Netflix which is a comedy looking at watching different science-fiction films back to back. I watched the first episode which involved an alien and a family protecting it, which did not involve any scientists and was therefore **I did not include this as relevant** to the investigation into representation of scientists on screen.

**Number 8: Absurd! Planet (2020-)** a TV show looking at nature and different animals that the narrator classes as 'absurd' or odd in the way they look and behave. I watched the first episode of season 1 and as this is a documentary style TV show there was no depiction of scientists but rather a narrator and clips of animals in different locations, which **I did not include as relevant** to the investigation into representation of scientists on screen.

**Number 9: Brainchild (2018)** a TV series looking at different topics and the science connected to them, such as dreams, emotions etc. I only watched the first episode, however there was no obvious representation of scientists, therefore **I did not include this as relevant** to the investigation into how scientists are presented on screen.

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