



**TNT**

**TÁRSADALMI  
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**Szeretettel  
meghívja a Kar  
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**Vendégelőadások  
sorozatának  
következő  
előadására:**

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**Our Vampires  
Ourselves:  
Anti-/feminist  
Rhetoric in  
Contemporary  
Vampire  
Fiction**

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The immense popularity of vampire stories, particularly those of a romantic nature, has resulted in feminist debates over the suitability of their female protagonists as role models for women. This paper explores how some of the currently most popular vampire stories contribute to contemporary feminist and anti-feminist debates. At the center of this exploration stand the female (non-vampire) heroines in some of the most popular vampire novels, films and television series of today. These fictional characters have often been dismissed as antifeminist; as potential victims of gratuitous violence and passive protagonists of romance plots, they seem highly unsuitable as female role models. As agents of their own fate, on the other hand, their stories may also be seen as offering compelling inspiration for female fans. These characters typically possess an independent spirit, insist on defining their own sexual parameters and actively defy conventions.

The contrasting views of these fictional characters can also be understood as reflections of more general, underlying debates over what constitutes feminism. How critics have approached and interpreted characters such as Sookie, Bella, Elena and Anita (all protagonists in popular vampire series) depends on their often unacknowledged ideological viewpoints.



This paper's exploration of the characters reveals that disagreements over their suitability as female role models are perhaps best understood as disagreements between various feminisms. By analyzing the characters from distinct ideological standpoints, their possible role(s) in these ideological disagreements are made clear. In the process, a deeper understanding of what characterizes and motivates the protagonists' actions is also gained.