

ABSTRACT

DECONSTRUCTING MAYBERRY: THE PRESENCE OF RACIAL ABSENCE IN THE *ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW*

The popularity of the *Andy Griffith Show* has elevated its community of Mayberry into the pantheon of other more famous utopias. The series has received criticism in recent years due to its all-white cast and its absence of any racial minority representation. However, because Mayberry's central claim to utopia is communal harmony and redemption of the social Other, the *Andy Griffith Show* must be self-reflexive and undermine the dominant ideology to remain utopic. Consequently, the social Other can also be read as the racial Other. Using the strategy of deconstruction within utopian scholarship and discourse, I will argue that it is possible for Mayberry to be racially coded as other than white due to how it negotiates and redefines structures of whiteness, otherness, and ideology.

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