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“The World is Watching” is the tagline from The Hunger Games, the first film adaptation of the novel series of the same name by Suzanne Collins. In 2012, the world was definitely watching The Hunger Games, as the film opened with record sales of an astounding $155 million at the domestic box office, at the time the best debut for any film opening outside of summer. But what exactly was the world watching? My thesis investigates personal agency, gender, and the film adaptation of the novels to question the subversive nature of Collins books, and whether the films recreate the entertainment the novels protest. Do they illuminate the problems with a charismatic dictator, but not with forced mass-media consumption?

The specific focus of my presentation will be gender, particularly the lack of Katniss’ self-identity Katniss, and how she deals with the various identities imposed on her throughout the series.