Long Tan Legs: A Pentadic Analysis of Women in “Bro” Country Music
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Why Country Music?

- According to an analysis completed by CMA in 2013, “42% of American adults – or more than 98 million people - are Country Music fans”
- Scholarship on country music is not representative of it’s popularity

Methodology: Pentadic Analysis

- Developed by Kenneth Burke
- A flexible framework for analyzing rhetoric with the goal of understanding the motives of the communicator
- Made up of Act, Scene, Agent, Agency and Purpose
- Through pentadic analysis two points will be most prevalent
- One part of the pentad, in this case the scene, will be most prevalent and will “contain” or change the way that the other is viewed or judged.

Sample Songs

- “That’s My Kind of Night” - Luke Bryan
- “Cruise” - Florida Georgia Line
- “Little Bit of Everything” - Keith Urban
- “Boys’ Round Here” - Blake Shelton

Research findings

- Women are categorized as scenery through
  - The way they are described
  - Ratio as subject compared to other aspects in song
  - Placement of women in the song
  - Lack of agency
- The actor is contained and transformed by the scene
- This reduces the responsibility of the male actor to communicate with women in mechanic, commanding way

Implications

- Decision making power is shifted to men
- Women are told their function is to be quiet, be beautiful, and most of all be functional

Some Key Research

