

The Monsters Society Faces and the Perfect Hero: A Textual Analysis of the Cybermen and the Doctor from *Doctor Who*

In the book *Monster Theory*, Jeffery Jerome Cohen states that, “The monster’s body is a cultural body” (4). He says that “The monster’s body quite literally incorporates fear, desire, anxiety, and fantasy.” A monster is indicative of the goings on of the society it was created in at the time of its inception. He calls the monster, “a construct and a projection,” and shows that the word monster is derived from the Latin *monstrum*, which means, “‘that which reveals,’ ‘that which warns’” (4). One example of a monster that can be read through this lens is the Cybermen from BBC’s *Doctor Who*.

The Cybermen from BBC’s *Doctor Who* represent society’s fears and anxieties over the dangers of unchecked technological advancements. Their representation of this has become especially prevalent since the show’s revival in 2005. The Cybermen hail from Earth’s twin planet, Mondas, and turned to cybernetic technology in order to survive on their planet. This led to transitioning from human to machine, a conflation known as the cyborg. They are emotionless and are constantly “upgrading,” in order to better suit their exploits. Their technology took their society over; they became their technology. The Cybermen show how technology can overwhelm society and how people are at risk of being assimilated to the technology they use.

This paper will show that society is afraid of becoming like the Cybermen, using evidence from BBC’s *Doctor Who*, and secondary support from theorists Theodor Adorno, Chris Hedges, and Jeffrey Jerome Cohen.