Game of Thrones is a popular television show set in a time that never really existed, but the scenery includes technology similar to the dark ages. It is about multiple royal families, and each of them believe that they are the rightful heir to rule the kingdom. The show has a premise of battles between these families, as well as drama inside of each family due to a longing for power in most scenarios. One of these families in particular is the Lannister family, and they currently control the kingdom. Throughout the series, Cersei Lannister’s three sons rule the kingdom, guided by Cersei herself and her brother, Jaime Lannister, after the death of their
father. Despite the difference in time, *Game of Thrones* creates many similarities between the dark ages and modern times in the categorization of hierarchical power, specifically in the Lannister house. This series clearly highlights gender discrimination in hierarchical distribution of power.

The oldest man of each house holds the power of leading his family in *Game of Thrones*. Females are blatantly shown to be lesser from scenes of brothels and the absence of females in important meetings. Females aren’t necessarily seen as objects as opposed to popular thinking of historical times, but the line is unclear of how much the men respected women in the setting of *Game of Thrones*. Based off of body language and positioning of characters in scenes throughout the series, females seem to agree without considering what they think personally. They automatically agree with what the leader of their house says or thinks. Also from the body language, some of these agreements are due fear of repercussions should the female voice her thoughts to their king or leader. The hierarchical power invested in the kings is abused because of the discrimination of females in powerful positions within the families. Still today, the majority of the world is male-dominated, whether it be political officials, matter of opinion, or in each individual households due to religion or other reasons.

Paralleled to modern society, females may not even want the pressure of having an authoritative position in the television show. Leading a house means that every outcome is your responsibility, good or bad, and that kind of pressure on someone’s mind is not for everyone. Though this is not the case for the Lannister family, as Cersei is present at every council and she intends to have her opinion heard on every topic. Furthermore, in the show there is no way for all of the females to take over power all at once, mainly due to the technology in *Game of Thrones*. 

Because of this, men should not have that fear if what holds them back from informing and counseling any women in their family, and they should begin consider all family members for members of their personal council. The location and time of the show is in different times than today, though beliefs as well as actions are paralleled to modern society.

Today, money is power. Big businesses have had money, as well as power, and they will continue to for much longer. These people and organizations can win over groups of people like in political races in America. This idea is also prevalent in sports, like how the NFL continues to push off CTE allegations because the organization has the resources and money to simply pay off their issues. The same is in *Game of Thrones* when mercenary fighters will battle for the family that offers the most to them. In the show, “the rich control everything. They own the land and the political process, and the only contenders for the iron throne come from a small group of powerful dynastic families” (Blake). One of the powerful dynastic families is the Lannister family. Throughout the series there is a lot of different turmoil in their house, and power changes frequently, while Cersei always watches power shift around her specifically from her father, to her husband, to her children. Though it seems as if men hold most of the power in the Lannister family, Cersei runs the house behind the public scene.

Cersei Lannister does not assimilate to the ideals of being a female in the *Game of Thrones* setting. She is power hungry and has personality characteristics that are similar to males of the time. Aaron Devor references a figure in his work that in essence means that sex is equal to gender, and the gender behaviors of that gender must be followed. Due to the dominant gender schema offered by Devor, children assume their biological sex is equal to both gender and gender norms, meaning that they must act, dress, and be interested in the same hobbies as other
people of the same gender (Devor 46). Cersei controls the Lannister house after her father's murder through her kids being the king. Since her kids are younger, she stays as council, and she is one of the only characters to remain consistent as the power in the Lannister house changes from king to king. Because of this, the ideals of the house do not change, and it is a direct effect of Cersei having her way in meetings. Her personality is controlling, but she is subtle in her points and makes the person she is deceiving to think that the tactic chosen was of their own thinking, while in reality the idea is planted by Cersei. The public does not see this; the audience understands the circumstances because of the dramatic irony used by the writing and directing of the show.

c. Evolved thesis 3: Power is now distributed by logical practices, not first born child, and *Game of Thrones* displays this though characters other than the king that run the house. In America today, there is obviously a democracy, as it always has been. The process of election is a more logical process because it involves freedom of choice, and the qualifications of each candidate is highly scrutinized. Not everywhere in the world is a democracy, though McDonald’s academic journal suggests that experts are calling for an end to the classic hierarchical power tree. His works says that “family sociologists are arguing for the abandonment of the concept of “family power”” (McDonald 607). Since there is so much battle surrounding the present system of who holds power in the kingdom in *Game of Thrones*, the empirical choice may be to go to a democracy or a system similar, relating closely with the next logical approach. Jaime Lannister has this ability to change the power. Since Jamie runs the Lannister army, if he does not agree with the logic of the tactic, he can make the judgement call to finish a plan, even if the king, or Cersei tell him to execute their own agenda. This shows how the dominant gender schema and
gender roles expectations are flawed due to an illogical approach to gender and power because not all females are “passive and submissive” and alike all men do not require an exertion of “dominance and aggression” (Devor 50).

Parallel distribution of power is displayed in true instances. The situation of power is not isolated in just television shows, but one of the best examples of most recent times in Narcos. The show is about drug trafficking in Colombia and inter family relations. After Pablo Escobar is killed, the Rodriguez family is in the prime light of Narcos, and the show displays the real life account of drama inside the Rodriguez family. Since Narcos is a hollywood product, so dramatisation occurred while writing the story, but the fights and story is as close to real as possible, down to the aesthetics of the scenes themselves. The Rodriguez brothers run their family drug cartel, and at the same time they train their sons to run the business after they are gone. In a scene where Gilberto and Miguel verbally fight in a cell after Gilberto is arrested about the best strategic approach to continuing their business, it proves how hierarchical power is illogical, but present today. It shows that the hierarchical process leads to greedy fights over who can make the changes for either the family, business, or anything entity that uses the hierarchical process. It is not always a smooth transition between power as shown from the Rodriguez brothers in Narcos, and the same is true for the Lannisters in Game of Thrones.

After Cersei’s father is murdered by her little brother Tyrion, power in the Lannister house starts to change, and so does Cersei’s mind on power. Due to the path power follows for their family, Cersei is not qualified to become the next queen, as it goes to her first born son. To
get around this rule, Cersei uses her children as pawns to run the house herself and forces Jamie to find Tyrion since he caused so much pain from what Cersei claims is since Tyrion’s birth.

Despite how progressive thinking is paving way for females in the world, there is still a lot of work to be done until women are seen as complete equals to men. Cersei Lannister stands as a character to defy odds against men in a time where it was uncommon. She tries to change the hierarchical power through testing other’s thoughts in the television series. Although Game of Thrones is set in a time similar to the dark ages, the structure of power in the Lannister family is still prevalent today because differences in gender and age, as well as politics that surround the family.
Works Cited


Devor, Aaron H. “Becoming Members of Society: Learning the Social Meanings of Gender” 


