



# SERENITY AND CONFLICT

Using Sociological Theory to  
Understand Science Fiction

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# Introduction

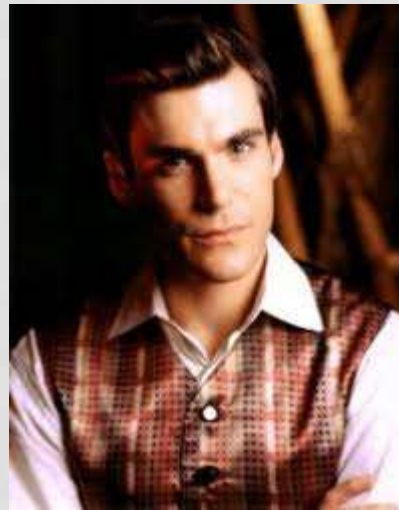
- “Firefly” and *Serenity*
- The real world
- Conflict Theory



# Characters



Captain Malcolm “Mal”  
Reynolds



Simon  
Tam



River  
Tam

# Plot

“After the Earth was used up, we found a new solar system and hundreds of new Earths were terraformed and colonized. The central planets formed the Alliance and decided all the planets had to join under their rule. There was some disagreement on that point. After the War, many of the Independents who had fought and lost drifted to the edges of the system, far from Alliance control. Out here, people struggled to get by with the most basic technologies.

A ship would bring you work, a gun would help you keep it. A captain's goal was simple: find a crew, find a job, keep flying.”

# Jobs

- Salvaging
- Stealing
- Selling
- Saving



# Interactions With the Alliance



# A Blow Against the Alliance

- Miranda
- Reavers



# Conflict Theory

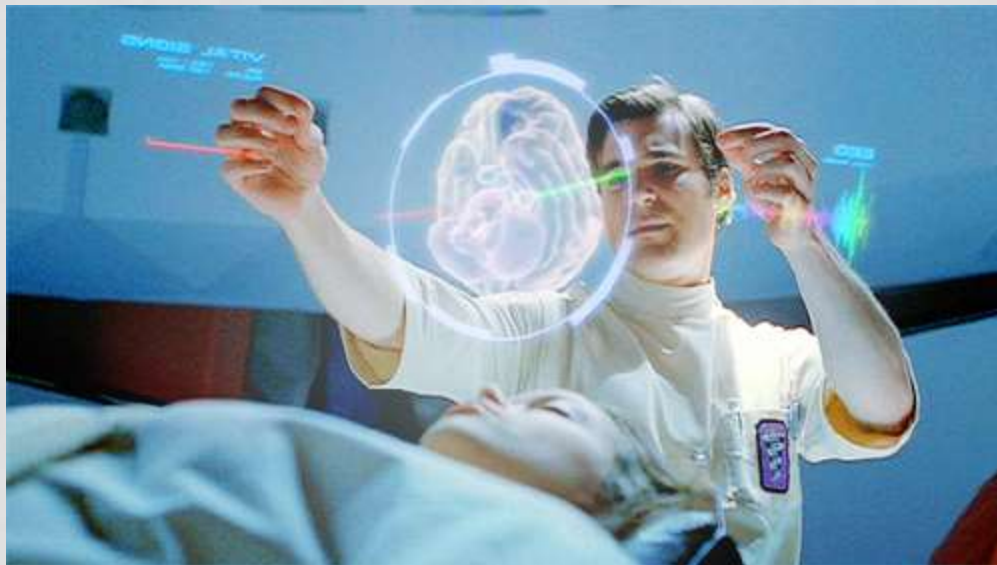
- Distribution of Resources
- Social Mobility
- Withdrawal of Legitimation
- Preservation of Power



# Unequal Distribution of Resources- Food



# Unequal Distribution of Resources— Health Care



# Unequal Distribution of Resources- Wealth



# Limited Social Mobility



# Withdrawal of Legitimation



# Preservation of Power

- Education
- Media
- Experimentation



# Conclusion

- Conflict in “Firefly”
- Real world implications