

ABSTRACT

This study examines the film *Origin* (2023) by Ava DuVernay, which depicts Isabel Wilkerson's journey in researching and writing her book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (2020). Employing Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical framework, this study analyses how cultural capital and habitus determine the ability of the American characters to recognize Wilkerson's caste framework as the underlying structure of American inequality, and how symbolic power and field theory represent Wilkerson's caste framework as a transnational system through the characters and historical evidence of the film. The findings demonstrate that caste recognition is determined by each character's social position and accumulated capital, and that the American, German, and Indian fields share the same caste system operating through different symbolic vocabularies. This study contributes to American Studies by demonstrating that what American society calls racism is structurally a caste system.

Keywords: *Caste, Cultural Capital, Habitus, Symbolic Power, Field Theory, Transnational, Film Origin (2023)*

