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Untitled: Generation Z’s *saudade* and the desire for dystopian narratives

Generation Z, constantly saturated with media, utilizes contemporary Sci-Fi narratives such as *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina, WandaVision, Stranger Things, and The Society, and I Am Not Okay with This* that tempers *saudade*, a Portuguese word meaning a nostalgia for something that is forever lost or never existed culminating in a deep sadness. Michael Amoruso in his work on *saudade* explains that once people feel this form of nostalgia, they realize the severe consequences of what they have lost and what they desire. These narratives allow Gen Z to engage with muted representation of twenty-first century technology and authority, retrospective settings, and a diversity of freedom that they may never have a chance to experience. Gen Z grew up consuming mainstream dystopian narratives such as *The Hunger Games, The Giver, and Divergent*, and these narratives provide language and similar experiences for Gen Z to discuss and compare with their own sociopolitical issues. The sociopolitical news, feeds, memes and post that unabatedly saturate Gen Z’s milieu are recursive to the dystopian narratives of their youth. To negotiate this constant saturation, Gen Z then utilizes these youth narratives’ ideologies to ameliorate and interpret contemporary sociopolitical events. This elicits the *saudade* that Gen Z looks to lessen through the viewing of *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina, WandaVision, Stranger Things, and The Society, and I Am Not Okay with This.*