

Reviews

THE *POPULAR CULTURE STUDIES JOURNAL* REVIEWS

Introduction

This issue of the *Popular Culture Studies Journal* continues the tradition of looking beyond books to include reviews of other types of popular culture texts. In the following section, which begins with reviews of several monographs and anthologies that present vital scholarship, readers will find critical discussions of the film *Eighth Grade*, an episode of the Netflix series *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, and the tabletop roleplaying game *Fiasco*. The reviewers make the case for the importance of each text while also providing some ideas for how to integrate them into various pedagogical situations. Malynnda and I believe that these reviews serve an important function in that they highlight non-academic texts that nevertheless offer popular culture scholars some useful examples to either write about or utilize in a classroom setting. Ultimately, these reviews reveal the importance of popular culture artifacts that lie outside the realm of academia, while also pointing readers of this journal to a handful of entertaining texts that may provide them with some fun or enjoyment during those fleeting moments of downtime.

In addition to these critiques, this issue also includes reviews of scholarly books focused on a variety of topics, including the links between the free press and the legal system, the cultural history and impact of the United States' most popular soft drink, a multi-methodological analysis of the band U2, and more. Comic scholars will find much of interest in this section, which features critical discussions of books examining Brazilian graphic narratives, style and remediation in comic-to-film adaptations, and the sociocultural and educational relevance of female superheroes. Other reviewers look at books that apply a postcolonial lens to the settler narratives portrayed in science fiction screen texts such as *Avatar* (2009) and *District 9* (2010), or books that explore the cultural history of the prestige television series *Breaking Bad* (2008-2013). The reviews gathered here offer important

insights into these scholarly texts while also raising questions that offer students of popular culture a way to engage with the arguments put forth by the authors.

As always, Malynnda and I hope that anyone inspired by these reviews decides to take a chance and submit their own preproposal outlining a text they would like to critique, whether it be a book, a film, an episode of a TV show, etc. Readers interested in writing a review for this journal should contact Malynnda directly with an overview and short rationale for the text they wish to review.

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