

Editorial: Grappling with Boundaries of Legitimacy

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In the previous editorial, I wrote about how and why popular culture scholars are different. It is no surprise that we cross disciplinary silos and examine issues that may be traditionally outside of the boundaries set by the ivory tower. This, then, begs the following questions: what the boundaries around which we should study and how we should study those issues?

For me, it is in these uncertain spaces that we, as popular culture scholars, should have the most impact. These, perhaps, uncomfortable spaces are our wheelhouses and our playgrounds. In them, we can help to break down some traditional silos that divide us, artificially. It is up to us to help use the tools of popular culture to not only understand elements of humanity, but also potentially help address issues that plague us. It is up to us to break the walls that silence. In other words, it is up to us to grapple with the boundaries of legitimacy.

About this Issue

You might notice that we have changed our format this year. Instead of a double issue presented during at the annual conference Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference, we will be releasing issues twice a year.

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In this issue, Alanna R. Miller addresses cultural understandings of gender through two films. From there, Peter B. Gregg discusses LEGOs and brick-olage. Then, Melissa Sartori considers history and its relationship with popular culture.

About the Special Edition - Professional Wrestling

The concept of grappling with legitimacy is especially important when considering our special edition. When Garret Castleberry approached me about creating a special edition on professional wrestling, as a field of interdisciplinary study, I had these very thoughts of the boundaries of legitimacy and appropriateness in mind. Just like our previous, award-winning, special issue regarding popular culture and autoethnography, we have an opportunity *run to* (as Bob Batchelor put it) a new space in popular culture studies. We cannot *run away* from the boundaries of legitimacy. We should keep pushing against them.

In the special edition, editors, CarrieLynn D. Reinhard, Garret Castleberry, and Christopher J. Olson, have assembled an impressive collection of works discussing professional wrestling from diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. They also collected essays that are a part of our reviews section, including discussions of works on and off the page (including video games and films).

About the Special Section - Sexual Assault Awareness Month

As part of breaking silos, we venture outside of the ivory tower walls of academia to address issues of sexual assault. We focus on experiences and advice from survivors, investigators, and law enforcement. I would like to thank Jenna Quinn, Sarah Green, Bernadette Markowski, and our

anonymous survivors for helping us frame the discussions we should be having about sexual assault.

A Few Final Words of Thanks

Before I sign off, I would like to think Julia Largent for her instrumental contributions and assistance as our managing editor. Once again, the reviews section would not be possible without our reviews editor Malynnda Johnson, and her assistant Jessica Benham. I would also like to welcome Kevin Calcamp as our new eagle-eyed copy editor. *The Popular Culture Studies Journal* could not exist without their valuable time and contributions. As always, I want to think my husband/partner, Brent Jones, for making another unique cover for us. His work continues to make *PCSJ* stand out among the sea of academic journals.