



Helen Morgan Parmett

Down in Treme: Race, Place, and New Orleans on Television

MEDIA GEOGRAPHY AT MAINZ – VOL. 5

THE AUTHOR

Helen Morgan Parmett is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and affiliate faculty in the Film and Television Program and the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program at the University of Vermont, where she holds the Edwin W. Lawrence Forensic Professorship of Speech. Her research focuses on the relationships between media, spatiality, and identity, with particular emphases on media production, television studies, and media geography.

Termed 'Hollywood South', New Orleans is the site of a burgeoning cultural economy of film and television production. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, this production plays an important role in the city's rebuilding. *Down in Treme: Race, Place, and New Orleans on Television* takes the HBO series *Treme*, filmed on-location in New Orleans, as a case study for exploring relationships between television production and raced and classed geographies in the rebuilding of post-Katrina New Orleans. *Treme* demonstrates how city efforts to attract film and television production collide with the television industry's desire to create new forms of connection for increasingly distracted audiences through the production of "authentic" connections to place. *Down in Treme* explores what is at stake in these collisions for local culture and struggles over the right to neighborhood and city space. By putting post-broadcast television studies, critical race theory, and urban studies into conversation, *Down in Treme* provides a poignant case study that enjoins scholars to go beyond the text to consider how media industries and production practices intervene into the contemporary media city.

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