

IN MEDIA RES
Fall 2015 CALL FOR CURATORS

David Simon: February 1 - February 5, 2016

CALL: Who would have ever thought that a show about housing reform could be so engrossing? With his most recent show *Show Me A Hero* (2015) recently finishing up on HBO, the internet and fan sites have been abuzz with continuing commentary (and perpetual critical lauding) of the work of reporter, showrunner, and author David Simon. Simon's works have been praised for their nuanced storytelling and (at times) controversial commentary on social issues of race, crime, and prejudice in America. Shows like *The Wire* (2002-2008), *Homicide: Life on the Streets* (1993-1999), and *Treme* (2010-2014) show us that integral to Simon's works is often the role of the media in such critical issues and his attempt to tell these stories without "cheating it" for dramatic effect. Unfortunately, "cheating it" is what most of his characters do to get by. For this IMR week, let's turn our interpretive and academic lenses on Simon's projects and try to dig up *what* Simon is saying about modern American society and the importance of *how* he is saying it.

Among the topics that might be examined:

- David Simon in the classroom: The pedagogical value of Simon's work.
- Language, class, and race in Simon's works.
- Writing vs. Showing; Simon's work in journalism and novels before TV.
- Social commentary as Prestige TV; Simon and HBO
- The academic criticism and commodification of Simon's work; "Oh, I've seen *The Wire*, I know how hard it is out there on the street."
- Pessimism, mass media, and social commentary in Simon's works.
- The politics of Simon's works.
- *The Corner* vs. *The Wire*: What changes, what stays the same?
- Poverty and the American Dream in Simon's work.
- David Simon's "style" of media and filmmaking.

Proposals may be brief, but do be sure to describe the topic and key question(s) to be explored. Please submit your proposal by [December 28, 2015](#). If interested, please contact *In Media Res* (inmediares@gsu.edu) with topic proposals or for more information about the theme. Be sure to include the name of the theme week you would like to be involved with in the subject line of the email.

Academics, journalists, critics, media professionals and fans are all welcome to submit proposals.

The actual piece will include either a 30-second to 3-minute clip, an image, or a slideshow that will be accompanied by a 300 to 350 word response to/contextualization of your clip, image, or slideshow. In addition to the your piece, you will be expected to

engage the other pieces presented that week to encourage discussion and further flesh out the individual topic in relation to the week's theme.

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