The Wire: A comprehensive list of resources

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Introduction

William Julius Wilson has argued that:

"The Wire’s exploration of sociological themes is truly exceptional. Indeed I do not hesitate to say that it has done more to enhance our understandings of the challenges of urban life and urban inequality than any other media event or scholarly publication, including studies by social scientists…The Wire develops morally complex characters on each side of the law, and with its scrupulous exploration of the inner workings of various institutions, including drug-dealing gangs, the police, politicians, unions, public schools, and the print media, viewers become aware that individuals’ decisions and behaviour are often shaped by - and indeed limited by - social, political, and economic forces beyond their control". Professor William Julius Wilson, Harvard University Seminar about The Wire, 4th April 2008.

We have been running courses which examine this claim by comparing and contrasting this fictional representation of urban America with a series of social scientific studies that deal with broadly similar issues, in particular the work of William Julius Wilson himself, Mitchell Dunier, Phillippe Bourgois, Sudhir Venkatesh and Loic Wacquant amongst others. As part of this exercise we have drawn together a mass of academic resources from across the social sciences, the humanities and serious journalism which we offer up here as a common resource to interested scholars.

We will update the list as and when we can but please do email us with details of any material that you come across that we have either missed or which is forthcoming.

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W: Academic Work on The Wire


16. Bramall, R. and Pitcher, B. (forthcoming) ‘Policing the Crisis, or, why we love The Wire’ ['Details to follow']


http://muse.jhu.edu


Dark Matter: In the Ruins of Imperial Culture, 4: 


http://ssrn.com/abstract=1414006

Edinburgh: Canongate.


http://ssrn.com/abstract=1856574

http://gradworks.umi.com/33/45/3345022.html


G: General Academic Work


6. Chatterton, P, 2007, ‘Banlieues, the Hyperghetto and Advanced Marginality: A Symposium on Loïc Wacquant’s *Urban Outcasts*', *City*, vol. 11, issue 3, pp. 357-363. This article by Paul Chatterton acts as an introduction to some great papers about *Urban Outcasts* in this special issue
   a. The role of race and class in urban marginality Discussing Loïc Wacquant’s comparison between the USA and France by Sylvie Tissot
   b. (Un)ghetto fabulous: Thoughts on Loïc Wacquant’s Urban Outcasts by Elisa Joy White
   c. Putting space in its place: Reassessing the spatiality of the ghetto and advanced marginality by Peter Marcuse
   d. Penalized spaces: The ghetto as prison and the prison as ghetto by Eduardo Mendieta
   e. Marginal economies and collective action by Vincenzo Ruggiero
   f. The challenge of comparative case studies by Janet Abu-Lughod
   g. Class, ethnicity, Leviathan and place Implications of Urban Outcasts for the comparative sociology of contemporary Western cities by Virgílio Borges Pereira
   h. Is there such a thing as ‘the ghetto’? The perils of assuming that the South Side of Chicago represents poor black neighborhoods by Mario Luis Small


I: Wire Related Internet Sources

1. Opening Sequences
   a. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmIvu1yg9bU
   b. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbDpzNMoLOQ
   c. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbK5HfedyWc
   d. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JK8joKNLlo
   e. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSWuuI5_gwk


3. 1968
   a. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb22dA5-~w8
   b. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8c8muriOPc&feature=related
   c. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS_oHbk2vJo&feature=related
   d. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEIyGXaBFUE&feature=related
   e. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81H4op_wckU&feature=related


5. Wire 4 Seasons in 4 Minutes http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZyROkfOb7s

6. Wire 5 Seasons in 5 minutes rap http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX1Du7d4gTU

7. Bill Moyers David Simon Interview
   a. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qulcqNMHVie
   b. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeNc5y7jnPYA&feature=related

8. Urban Ethnic segregation maps
   http://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingSF/sets/72157624812674967/detail/


11. C. Brooker on The Wire
    a. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tz99iZRgZwA
    c. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVDc1uXda6Y&feature=related


14. David Simon and 'Bunk' on the future of the city http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krMQg4eEuOU

16. Harvey’s Course on Capital http://davidharvey.org/. Harvey worked in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins. This is a brilliant course on Marx.

17. Wire HBO Episode guide http://www.hbo.com/the-wire/episodes#


20. David Simon on Journalism: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8E8xBXFLKE


22. David Simon on ‘his’ Baltimore http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH9feOw2HGw


24. 100 Quotes http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgi78OG9Bg&feature=related

25. And another 100… http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFh2IrNAEl&feature=related


27. David Simon NOW http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FK8Ohw1AaMo