

Call for Chapter Proposals

“Media, Prison, and Experience”

The Netflix series *Orange is the New Black* brought the experiences of prison life, notably, women’s prison life into the public arena. Based on Piper Kerman’s memoirs, this program fictionalized a socialite’s experiences in a women’s correctional facility. Critics have praised for its authenticity and diversity, yet criticized some of the program’s gendered messages. This show and other fictional narratives, along with news discourse, shape many people’s perceptions of prison life—a problematic view that distorts and/or omits most real-life experiences.

This book unites Media Studies with prison ethnography, connecting experience to its mediated representations. The first section of the book will address representations of prison life, discussing various aspects of these portrayals, with a focus on gender, sexuality, and intersectionality. In the second half, chapters will provide readers with inside perspectives of prison life, parole, and the indirect effects of incarceration on families.

Chapters should be written through a Cultural Studies lens, with attention given to the intersectionality of sex, gender, sexual identity, race, ethnicity, and other characteristics.

Specifically seeking work using ethnography, participant observation, and interviews, connecting these experiences to media’s representations. Textual scholars are also welcome to submit.

Suggested topics: *Gender and. . . .*

- Masculinity in prison representations
- Incarcerated and LGBTQ+
- Race, ethnicity, and experience in the prison system
- Disability, identity, and conviction
- Global perspectives on prison representations and experience
- Prison-life cross-cultures
- Perspectives of prison guards and authority figures
- Families of those incarcerated
- Perspectives of prison workers
- Religion and spirituality in prison

Submit a 300 word abstract and a short bio to mediaandprisonbook@gmail.com by October 1, 2015. If selected, full chapters will be due by January, 15, 2016. Questions and inquiries can be sent to Katie.Foss@mtsu.edu.