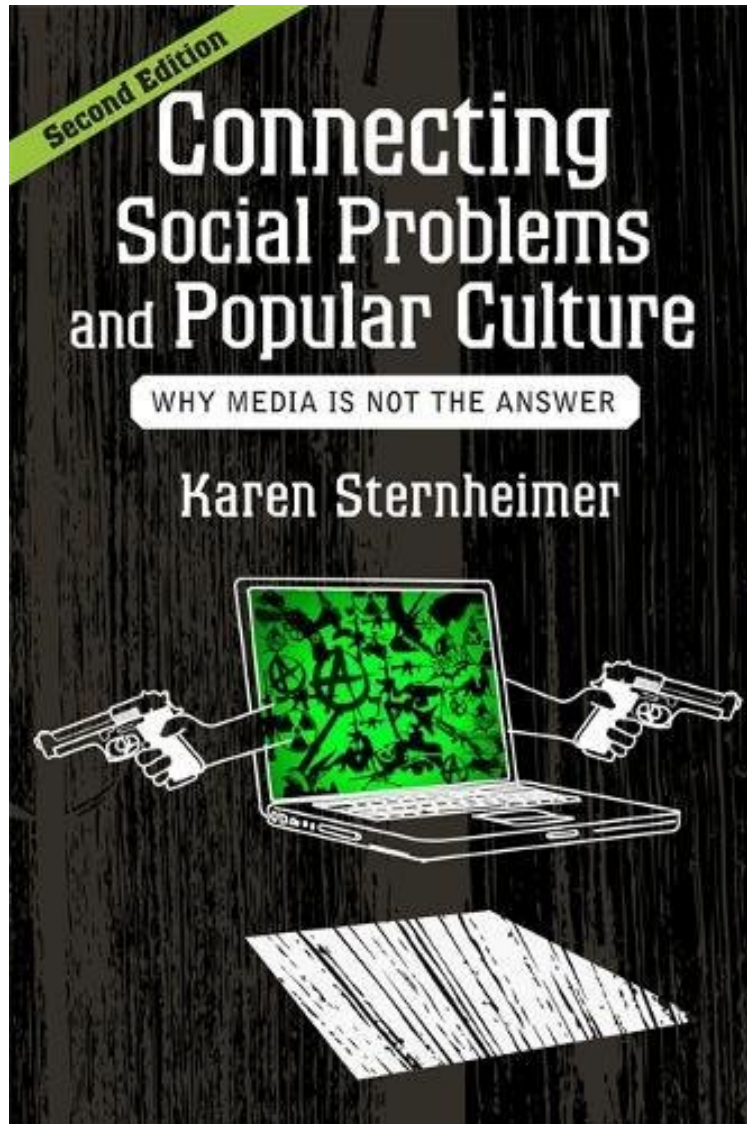


Connecting Social Problems and Popular Culture: Why Media is Not the Answer

Karen Sternheimer

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Is violence on the streets caused by violence in video games? Does cyber-bullying lead to an increase in suicide rates? Are teens promiscuous because of Teen Mom? As Karen Sternheimer clearly demonstrates, popular culture is an easy scapegoat for many of society's problems, but it is almost always the wrong answer.Now in its second edition, *Connecting Social Problems and Popular Culture*

"This book encourages students to question the way that social scientific data is reported in mainstream media and to see the limitations of this type of research."Communication Research TrendsPraise from the First Edition:"The author cautions against focusing on the media as predator and turns readers' attention to themselves and the society they create around and conceivably for' their children and families to better grasp how people create and perpetuate social problems. Well researched, with an attention to policy details, this book helps debunk the notion that media is the cause of society's ills. Highly recommended."Choice"Focusing on children and young adults, [Sternheimer's] main argument is that the intersection of race, gender, and poverty makes social problems significantly complex, and as a result, we blame popular culture for societal quandaries because it is easier to convince ourselves that television and video games are the cause of social disparities Sternheimer asks us to take another look. Her book is a well written rationale as to why we should."American Sociological AssociationAbout the AuthorKaren Sternheimer is a sociologist at the University of Southern California where she is also a faculty fellow at the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching. Her research has focused on issues related to popular culture and youth, particularly moral panics relating to both. She editor and lead writer for the Everyday Sociology blog and has appeared as a commentator on numerous networks, such as CNN, The History Channel, MSNBC, and Fox News.