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Abstract:

This paper examines the novel ways in which the enemy is formulated in regard to the threat of homegrown terrorism and uses the widely popular Showtime series Homeland as a site through which to explore this phenomenon. The “homegrown terrorist” cannot be delineated through demographic markers such as race, ethnicity, class, gender or religious upbringing. This paper argues that what emerges from efforts to formulate an enemy in lieu of the availability of binary notions of difference is not the figure of the Other, but the figure of the Double which blurs the boundaries between “Other” and “Us.” This figure, characterized as ubiquitous, amorphous, latent and dangerous, announces the incompleteness of the collective and thus facilitates new problematic modes of state control. This paper utilizes Homeland to illustrate the concepts and mechanisms through which this enemy-figure is formulated as well as to outline its cultural and political consequences.