

Haunted Spaces and Unsettling Predicaments: An Interrogation of (Capitalist) Sport via the Work of Mark Fisher [abstract only]

CHERRINGTON, James and BLACK, Jack <<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1595-5083>>

Available from Sheffield Hallam University Research Archive (SHURA) at:

<https://shura.shu.ac.uk/34831/>

This document is the Accepted Version [AM]

Citation:

CHERRINGTON, James and BLACK, Jack (2025). Haunted Spaces and Unsettling Predicaments: An Interrogation of (Capitalist) Sport via the Work of Mark Fisher [abstract only]. In: The Sociology, Politics and Human Geography Seminar Series, Sheffield, UK, 29 January 2025. (Unpublished) [Conference or Workshop Item]

Copyright and re-use policy

See <http://shura.shu.ac.uk/information.html>

Haunted Spaces and Unsettling Predicaments: An Interrogation of (Capitalist) Sport via the Work of Mark Fisher

Jim Cherrington, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Jack Black, PhD, Associate Professor of Culture, Media, and Sport, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Presented at:

“The Sociology, Politics and Human Geography Seminar Series,” Sheffield Hallam University, UK, January 2025.

Abstract

In utilising the work of Mark Fisher, this presentation critically interrogates contemporary manifestations of capitalist sport. Specifically, it examines how the notion of capitalist realism, as well as the related concepts of hauntology and the weird and the eerie, might serve to resist anthropocentrism and challenge political impotence in the face of multiple existential crises. Emphasising Fisher’s focus on temporality and temporal aberration, the presentation explores how certain aspects of sports culture, such as the media coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, mountain bike trail building, GPS tracking and landscape photography—experiences that are both fascinating and terrifying in equal measure—might unsettle us in ways that provoke a reconfiguration of existing socio-political frames of reference. In doing so, the presentation urges scholars and practitioners of sport to accept that things are never what they seem (or feel), and to embrace the ghosts of our, as-yet, unrealised (sporting) futures.

Bibliography

- Black, Jack, and Jim Cherrington. 2022. “Posthuman to Inhuman: mHealth Technologies and the Digital Health Assemblage.” *Theory & Event* 25 (4): 726—750.
- Black, Jack, and Joseph S. Reynoso. 2024. “Just a Game? Sport and Psychoanalytic Theory.” *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 29: 145—159.
- Cherrington, Jim, and Jack Black. 2020. “Spectres of Nature in the Trail Building Assemblage.” *International Journal of the Sociology of Leisure* 3: 71—93.
- Cherrington, Jim, and Jack Black. 2022. *Sport and Physical Activity in Catastrophic Environments*. Routledge.
- Cherrington, Jim, and Jack Black. 2023. “The electric mountain bike as pharmakon: examining the problems and possibilities of an emerging technology.” *Mobilities* 18 (6): 1000—1015.
- Colquhoun, Matt. 2020. *Egress: On Mourning, Melancholy and Mark Fisher*. Repeater.
- Colquhoun, Matt. 2022. “Introduction.” In *Postcapitalist Desire*, Mark Fisher. Repeater.
- Fisher, Mark. 2009. *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?* Zero Books.
- Fisher, Mark. 2014. *Ghosts of My Life: Writings on Depression, Hauntology and Lost Futures*. Zero Books.
- Fisher, Mark. 2017. *The Weird and the Eerie*. Repeater.