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# WHAT IS THERE TO SEE? BERGSON, DELEUZE, AND *THE WIRE*

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To address philosophy's failure to understand that human perception is essentially shaped by social habits and pragmatic needs is one of the most critical tasks Bergson sets for himself; hence his passionate call for us to finally learn "to see for the sake of seeing," for a new pedagogy of perception capable of undoing the power of habits. Deleuze takes seriously Bergson's claim and in his study of cinema explores the ethical and political implications of what we see or fail to see, of what films choose to frame or leave outside of the frame. He also wonders what could bring about a true shift in perception in a culture overwhelmed by images of all sorts; how a critical stance may still be solicited by a difference in what we see when we are routinely exposed to more images than one can possibly bear. David Simon's series *The Wire* offers an interesting contemporary case to discuss the set of issues raised by Bergson and Deleuze.



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