claims about the role of structure and constraints in enjoyable play activities seem difficult to dispute, though readers’ opinions may be mixed regarding whether Play Anything really revolutionizes the ideas of play and fun as its preface promises to do. Whether the reader accepts all the book’s claims or not, though, Bogost’s arguments provide an experience that is—dare I say it—fun to navigate.

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Get Out of My Room!: A History of Teen Bedrooms in America
Jason Reid

Jason Reid’s Get Out of My Room: A History of Teen Bedrooms in America is a comprehensive and engaging study that accomplishes what all historical writing aims for but which it so seldom achieves. It illuminates its subject matter while simultaneously enriching the reader’s understanding of the broader historical periods in which it contextualizes Reid’s analysis. Get Out of My Room is a worthwhile addition to the existing historiography in its own right as well as an excellent reference point for twentieth-century U.S. social and cultural history.

Reid, however, reaches beyond the twentieth century and delves into the nineteenth-century origins of teen bedroom autonomy in America. His investigation is as deep as it is broad, situating the birth of teen bedroom culture within the context of “the rise of modern capitalism and the sweeping social, demographic, and cultural changes that emerged in its wake” (p. 3). The first two chapters chart a narrative in which teen bedrooms shifted from sites of “character building, intellectual growth, spiritual awareness, and personal responsibility” to spaces of “self-reliance, property ownership, and personal autonomy” (pp. 12, 40). Reid points out that, in some respects, the narrative shift from spiritual to social-scientific rationales for children having rooms of their own was “offering old wine in new bottles” (p. 40). But he effectively illustrates the overall secularization of approaches to teen bedroom autonomy.

From there, chapter 3 includes a lively discussion of the consumer culture’s impulse to individualize teen bedrooms vis-à-vis the décor-industrial complex. Chapter 4 covers the social acceptance and near ubiquity of having a room of one’s own in the post–World War II period. Noteworthy here is Reid’s deft treatment of class in his narrative. Nevertheless, he maintains, mostly convincingly, that teen bedroom autonomy was more culturally than economically based.

Chapter 5 illustrates the shift to do-it-yourself bedroom decoration, while chapter 6 delves into the evolution of the teen bedroom as multimedia center. Reid’s approach here is especially innovative, discussing audiovisual technology’s twentieth-century advancement concurrent with the evolution of teen bedroom culture. For example, the section on gam-
Counseling Families: Play-Based Treatment

Eric J. Green, Jennifer N. Baggerly, and Amie C. Myrick
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Counseling Families: Play-Based Treatment provides an introduction to integrating play therapy and family counseling approaches. It presents a review of how various approaches to play therapy apply to family work. Although the volume assumes the reader possesses a basic understanding of the principles of non-directed play therapy with children, the book is primarily geared toward counseling students and beginning practitioners.

In her foreword, Louise Guerney asserts that the book represents “new leadership connecting with the ‘old’ play therapy leadership” (p. ix). Unfortunately, Guerney does not elaborate on this statement and fails to describe what she means by “old,” and what is new about the approaches described in the volume. The introduction by the authors, however, provides a fitting coda to Reid’s narrative with sophisticated analyses of teen bedroom depictions in music, film, literature, and television.

Get Out of My Room is a thoughtful and persuasive work that demonstrates the gradual secularization and eventual democratization of teen bedroom autonomy in America throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Reid roots his study in a firm understanding of the larger historical forces at work, employs his sources soundly, and is attentive to matters of gender, class, and race. His inquiry contributes significantly to a greater understanding of United States social and cultural history.

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