



APS Bibliography

■ Liminality & Spatial Distortion

Study: The American Peripheromenal Survey

Unit: The Archive

| **Region:** Cascadia (Reg10)

Status: ACTIVE REFERENCE | **Version:** 3.0 (Expanded Citations)

Target Category: TYPE I

Rationale: Essential reading for understanding the psychological mechanisms behind the survey data and the "Backrooms" phenomenon.

- **Augé, Marc.** *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*. London: Verso, 1995. ISBN: 9781859840511. <https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/32968908>.
 - Anthropologist Marc Augé introduces the concept of “non-places”—transitory, anonymous spaces created by late modernity (airports, hotels, highways). Establishes the theoretical backdrop for contemporary discourse on liminality, placelessness, and affective estrangement.
- **Freud, Sigmund.** “The Uncanny.” In *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Vol. 17, edited by James Strachey, 217–256. London: Hogarth Press, 1955. Originally published 1919. <https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/223710>.
 - Freud defines the uncanny as the return of the repressed within familiar settings. Foundational for understanding how liminal spaces produce dread by combining familiarity, estrangement, and latent childhood associations.
- **Cho, Day, and Natalie Underberg-Goode.** “Lost in Liminal Space: The Internet Legend of the Backrooms.” *Contemporary Legend* 3 (May 2025): 16–35. <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/cl/article/view/41598>. Full PDF> <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/cl/article/download/41598/43424/121004>.
 - Analyzes the Backrooms meme as a form of digital legend-tripping mediated through online participatory culture. Positions liminal horror as a collective processing of temporality, grief, and spatial displacement.
- **Wiggins, Bradley Earl.** “The Backrooms and Liminal Spaces: Explorations of a Digital Urban Legend.” *New Media & Society* 27 (2024): 4729–4747. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/14614448241238395>.

- Examines how low-resolution imagery, default textures, and mundane architectural spaces enhance believability in Backrooms media. Useful for understanding how visual minimalism supports immersion and authenticity in user-generated horror.
- **Pixels, Kane (Kane Parsons).** *The Backrooms (Found Footage)*. YouTube video, 9:15. January 7, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4dGpz6cnHo>.
 - A short film that popularized the Backrooms as a cinematic and narrative horror setting and initiated a new wave of “found footage” analog-style internet horror. Highly influential in defining Backrooms aesthetics and lore.
- **Yalcinkaya, Günseli.** "Inside the uncanny world of #liminalspaces TikTok" by Dazed Digital, April 14, 2021. <https://www.dazedsdigital.com/science-tech/article/52477/1/inside-the-uncanny-world-of-liminal-spaces-tiktok-reddit-nostalgia>.
 - Explores the unsettling affect of liminal imagery by linking architectural theory, postmodern placelessness, and internet culture. Helps bridge academic concepts of non-place with contemporary online aesthetics.