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## SEX WORK AND CRIME FICTION

*Margins of Desire*

Kirin Wachter-Grene

*School of the Art Institute of Chicago*



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## Sex Work and Crime Fiction

### Margins of Desire

Elements in Crime Narratives

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Kirin Wachter-Grene  
*School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

**Author for correspondence:** Kirin Wachter-Grene, kwacht@saic.edu

**Abstract:** This Element argues that the sex worker character in crime narratives, often dismissed as a flat stereotype or mere plot device, actively performs crucial narratological labor that shapes the novel's realism and challenges conventional understandings of character, agency, and social reproduction. By applying Alex Woloch's theory of character-space and drawing on contemporary Black feminist scholarship that privileges power, pleasure, and desire, this study reveals how sex worker characters, through their evolving representation from marginal figures to central agents, resist narrative containment and illuminate broader socio-cultural tensions surrounding gender, class, and authority within the genre.

**Keywords:** sex work, crime narratives, narrative form, Black feminist criticism, character-space

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