

CONTENTS

1 The Slippery Terrain of <i>Offensive</i> Television	1
<i>Rethinking Offence</i>	6
<i>Affect-Laden Publicness in the Reception of Offensive Television</i>	8
<i>Fieldwork</i>	13
<i>Self-Reflexivity and Limitations</i>	17
<i>Chapter Outline</i>	19
<i>References</i>	21
2 Producing the Imagined Audience of Offensive Screens	25
<i>Offence and the Subject of Value</i>	27
<i>The Porous Border Between 'Us' and 'Them'</i>	33
<i>Offence and Consumer Choice</i>	37
<i>Conclusions</i>	41
<i>References</i>	42
3 Just Kidding! Negotiating the Line Between Humour and Offence	45
<i>Taking Humour Seriously</i>	47
<i>The Link Between 'Humour Regimes' and Offence</i>	50
<i>Offensive Humour as a Tool of Social Distinction</i>	56
<i>No Offence Taken: How Audiences Work to Avoid Offence</i>	60
<i>Conclusion</i>	67
<i>References</i>	67

4 Audiences Speak Back: Re-Working Offensive Television	71
<i>This Public is Not Condemned to Silence</i>	73
<i>It's Easy to Punch Down Somebody Worse off Than You': Critical Investments in Reading Offensive Television</i>	76
<i>Conclusions</i>	85
<i>References</i>	86
5 Audiences' Expectations of Regulators and Producers	89
<i>The Implied Audience and the Citizen-Consumer in German and British Television Regulation</i>	90
<i>Who Is Responsible? Two Contrasting Views of Regulation</i>	96
<i>The (Seemingly) Consumer Audience of Provocative Screens</i>	97
<i>The Citizen-Audience of Provocative Screens</i>	101
<i>Going Beyond Red Flags and Red Herrings</i>	107
<i>References</i>	110
6 Provocative Screens	113
<i>Key Findings</i>	115
<i>Notes on Policy</i>	121
<i>Areas for Further Research</i>	124
<i>References</i>	126
Bibliography	127
Index	129