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**“Dangerous Edge of Things” - Pushing the Frontier to a New *Mestizaje* in *Firefly***

**Abstract:** My article is related to the use of Gloria Anzaldúa’s concept of *mestizaje* and Frederick Jackson Turner’s frontier thesis in analyzing the possible hybridity in Joss Whedon’s *Firefly*, where an intergalactic Sino-American federation called the Alliance recreates the palimpsest of civilization of the kind described by Turner, but also forges a new cultural mix: a Wild West backdrop with Chinese characteristics. I examine the ways in which Whedon’s show differs from other space opera settings like *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*, but also how it ends up reproducing certain orientaling tropes that feature in science fiction. I aim to see how *mestizaje* is mirrored in linguistic, sexual, and religious ways through the show’s engagement with in-betweenness, especially in the guise of its adoption of Chinese culture, and whether Whedon’s *Firefly* enables the creation of Anzaldúa’s type of hybridity.

**Keywords:** *mestizaje*, frontier, palimpsest, hybridity, *Firefly*