

Representations of Horror in the 21st Century (Edinburgh, 28 Apr 18)

University of Edinburgh, Apr 28, 2018

www.dontlook.llc.ed.ac.uk

Tom Day, Courtauld Institute of Art

Don't Look: Representations of Horror in the 21st Century

We live in scary, uncertain times. In recent years, we have witnessed the rise of hard-line nationalism, the ascendancy of racist alt-right politics and attacks on the increasingly fragile-looking institution of democracy. We contend, daily, with the threat of seemingly inevitable ecological catastrophe. The Horror genre has always been understood as a potent mirror and bellwether, able to digest the socio-cultural and political currents of a given moment and feed them back to us in uncompromising and disturbing ways. This conference seeks to consider how representations of horror are changing in our own contemporary moment, where the line between fiction and reality, truth and lies appears to be fraying beyond recognition.

Recent academic scholarship on horror has diverged towards topics such as: fear and the appearance of reality within found footage horror; the multisensory perception of horror in video games, television and theme parks; and the rise of concepts such as 'The Horror of Philosophy'. There has also been a focus towards contemporary studies of Queer Horror and appropriation, audience participation, and changing tastes in horror fandom. This one-day multidisciplinary conference seeks to analyse representations of horror since 2000, with particular emphasis on current trends and cycles, and the ways in which horror can be said to reflect contemporary anxieties and fears. We are specifically interested in determining some of the ways in which these aesthetics have changed and why.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sorchá Ní Fhlainn (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Registration is now open

Details of the day's schedule are now available: goo.gl/ySFj77

Tickets are available on Eventbrite: goo.gl/Ka3SCm

PROGRAMME

08:30am-09:00am: Registration (Moray House)

09:00am-09:10am: Opening Remarks

09:10am-10:00am: Panel 1: Horror and the Body

Sara Petrucci -University of Neuchâtel:

Weightless Bodies and Geographies of Horror: Visions of Liminal Spaces in the Internet Age

Edward Falvey – University of Exeter:

Mediating Monstrosity: The Human Body as Metatext in Contemporary Horror

10:00am-11:20am: Panel 2: Horror Across Media

Barbara Chamberlin – University of Sussex

Revive, Reuse and Recycle: Revisiting Sabrina

Alison Bainbridge – Northumbria University

Desert Bluffs, StrexCorp and Postmodern Capitalist Anxieties in Welcome to Night Vale

Katrina Heljakka – University of Turku

Don't Look at the Dolly! Toying with Representation of Horror in the 21st Century

11:20am-11:40am: Coffee/Tea (Moray House)

11:40am-12:30pm: Panel 3: Contemporary Approaches to Horror Cinema

Nuno Barradas Jorge – University of Nottingham

'Let's call it post-horror?' Genre-bending in Contemporary American Independent Cinema

Roos Fopma – University of Groningen

Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide: Watching Horror Films at Home

12:30pm-13:20pm: Panel 4: Horror and Gender

Charlotte Gough – University of Manchester

Ballerinas, Babymakers and Body-Horror: Female Subjectivity and Physical Spectatorship in Aronofsky's *Black Swan* (2011) and *Mother!* (2017)

Valeria Villegas Lindval – University of Gothenburg

Crimson Red in *The Book of Birdie*

13:20pm-14:00pm: Lunch (Moray House)

14:00pm-14:50pm: Panel 5: Trauma and Representation

Ekaterina Vinogradova – Grenoble Alps University

Fear as Artistic Foundation in the Construction of Post-Soviet National Identities

Simon Crosbie – Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

The House of Horror: Images of Sites of Child Abuse in Contemporary Media

14:50pm-15:40pm: Panel 6: Horror and Marginality

Monica Szanyi – Penn State University

Zombies on the Reservation: Examining the Role of Native Americans in Twenty-First Century
Zombie Television Shows

Tracy Mollet – University of Leeds

“Do you seriously want to fight the Demogorgon with your wrist rocket?": Stranger Things, Geeks,
Horror and (hyper) Postmodernism

15:40-16:00: Coffee/Tea

16:00-17:20 Work in Progress Session

Melissa Marceo – University of Illinois

Purging the Surplus: Precarity in Contemporary Body Horror

Jeanne Ferrier – Paris Diderot University

The “Zombie Renaissance” of the 2000s: The Contagious Spread of “Disease Horror” Across
Genres

Matteo Valentini – University of Genoa

Violence as “image act” from Wiener Aktionismus to Isis’ videos

Ralph Dorey – Northumbria University

Smeared into The Environment: Queer Horror games and The Ahuman

17:20-18:20: Keynote:

Dr. Sorchá Ní Fhlainn – Manchester Metropolitan University

‘Don’t F*ck with the Original’: Postmodernity, Feedback loops, and new horizons in horror cinema
from Wes Craven to Blumhouse

18:20-18:30: Closing Remarks

Reference:

CONF: Representations of Horror in the 21st Century (Edinburgh, 28 Apr 18). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 13, 2018
(accessed Sep 3, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/17586>>.