



# HORROR STUDIES

BAFTSS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

## April 2023 Bulletin

Hi everyone, and welcome to the April 2023 edition of the BAFTSS Horror Studies Special Interest Group Bulletin. We hope the past few months have treated you well! Below you will find your usual helping of horror studies news – including calls for papers, information about new publications, and upcoming events.

Our next edition of the bulletin is due to be sent out in **August 2023** and the **deadline for inclusion is 31 July 2023**, so be sure to send over any news of horror screen studies publications, events, CFPs etc. to [s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk](mailto:s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk)

Past editions of the bulletin now have an archival home on our website if you want a trip down memory lane or to see what has been going on in the horror studies world.

If you don't already follow us on Facebook or Twitter, then please do! It's where we post reminders and registration details for upcoming SIG events, and signal boost relevant work in the field – links below!

We hope the rest of your Spring (when it eventually arrives) goes well!

All the very best,

Laura and Shellie

Website: <http://www.baftsshorrort.weebly.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/720961798739507>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/baftss\\_horror](https://twitter.com/baftss_horror)

# HORROR SIG NEWS

## Au revoir, Kate!

We wish to announce that our co-founder Kate Egan will be stepping away from the SIG for the time being.

Kate has been a fantastic co-convenor and more importantly she has been – and remains – a wonderful friend and we want (as we are sure you do too) to thank her for all her hard work and great ideas over the past two years.

Please note that although Kate will be taking time away from the SIG itself, she remains one of the series editors for the *Hidden Horror Histories* series.

## EVENTS - We started the academic year off with a bang!

Since our last bulletin we have hosted four more successful SIG Weekly Night Bite events.

In November, we were very proud to host *Women Make Horror: Two Years on*. This international event not only celebrated the two-year anniversary of the release of the foundational *Women Make Horror: Filmmaking, Feminism, Gender* (ed. Alison Peirse, 2020), but also marked (roughly) two years since we started the SIG! Chaired by Kate Egan, and with panelists Prano Bailey-Bond, Caryn Coleman, Alison Peirse, Ylenia Olibet, and Valeria Villegas Lindvall, this event covered a variety of topics from the impact of the book on scholarship and the direction of feminist film theory, to the role of women in filmmaking and film exhibition in recent years.

Following this was our annual Christmas event. The frightfully festive *Nightmares Before Christmas: Seasonal Horror On Screen* discussion was chaired by Craig Ian Mann, and saw panelists Derek Johnston, Steve Jones, Cat Lester, and Diane A. Rodgers examining killer santas, grinchies, gremlins, and ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future!

We then kicked off the new year in January with *Blood on the Lens: Trauma and Anxiety in American Found Footage Horror Cinema: Book Launch and Panel Discussion*. This event saw author Shellie McMurdo in conversation with chair Kendall Phillips before a broader panel discussion on the subgenre that brought in experts Aislinn Clarke, Cecilia Sayad, Ami Nisa, and Pete Turner.

January also saw our second SIG Symposium: *Learning to Scream: A Horror Studies Screen Pedagogy Symposium*, which brought together international scholars at various levels to explore a broad range of questions around learning with and from horror in the contemporary Higher Education landscape. More information about the symposium can be found here (along with recordings of all panels): <https://baftsshorrort.weebly.com/learning-to-scream-a-pedagogy-symposium.html>

After a break in Weekly Night Bite events for February in solidarity with UCU industrial action, the series returned in March for *Natural Born Horrors: An Eco-Horror Roundtable*. Chaired by Lindsay Hallam, panelists Kaja Franck, Dawn Keetley, Cat Lester and Kali Simmons gave us a fascinating discussion from a variety of perspectives on topics such as indigeneity, animal horror, killer plants and a host of other topics.

If you missed out on any of these events and want to catch up, never fear, as there is a full back catalogue of Weekday Night Bites here:

<https://baftsshorrort.weebly.com/past-events.html>

## FORTHCOMING WEEKDAY NIGHT BITES

(free entry and held on Zoom)

**Adapting Stephen King: Panel Discussion and Launch of Devil's Advocates: Pet Sematary**

**26 April 2023 @ 7pm – 8.30pm (BST)**

With dozens of film and television adaptations of his work released over the last five decades (and more on the way), the name Stephen King is no longer solely synonymous with horror literature, but now forms a significant and growing area of interest within screen-based horror studies.

Panelists:

- Simon Brown (Kingston University)
- Craig Ian Mann (Sheffield Hallam University)
- Shellie McMurdo (University of Hertfordshire)
- Laura Mee (University of Hertfordshire)
- Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/3aCGzmX5QK>

## OUR BOOK SERIES!

Affiliated with the BAFTSS Horror Studies Special Interest Group, *Hidden Horror Histories* is a new book series from Liverpool University Press which aims to uncover underexplored areas of screen horror.

We have attached our **new CFP** to this bulletin – If you are interested in contributing to the series, please do get in contact with the series editors to discuss your initial ideas:

Kate Egan ([kate.egan@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:kate.egan@northumbria.ac.uk))

Laura Mee ([l.mee2@herts.ac.uk](mailto:l.mee2@herts.ac.uk))

Shellie McMurdo ([s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk](mailto:s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk))

## RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Cat Lester (ed.) (2023) *Watership Down: Perspectives on and Beyond Violence*. Bloomsbury

- Further information: Please see <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/watership-down-9781501376993/>
- DISCOUNT ALERT: Please see attached flyer for 35% off

Shellie McMurdo (2023) *Devil's Advocates: Pet Sematary*. Auteur/Liverpool University Press.

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781802077186>

- Join us for the launch event! – details above!
- For more information and to register for the event:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/3aCGzmX5QK>

**Alissa Burger (2023) *Devil's Advocates: IT Chapters One and Two*.  
Auteur/Liverpool University Press.**

- Further information:  
<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781802077155>

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**Film Matters 13.3 – which includes: Contemporary Horror Cinema Dossier**

- Available here:  
[https://intellectdiscover.com/content/journals/10.1386/fm\\_00248\\_1](https://intellectdiscover.com/content/journals/10.1386/fm_00248_1)

## **CHAPTERS**

**Stella Gaynor (2022) 'Better the Devil You Know: Nostalgia for the Captured Killer in Netflix's Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes', *Serial Killers in Contemporary Television*. Routledge.**

## **CALLS FOR PAPERS**

### **CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA**

**Fear 2000: Horror Uncaged (Online and In Person)**

- The seventh annual Fear 2000 conference!
- Online (via Zoom) 21-22 July 2023
- In Person (Sheffield Hallam University) 28-29 July 2023
- First keynote speaker announced: Shellie McMurdo
- Contact: Craig Ian Mann ([c.mann@shu.ac.uk](mailto:c.mann@shu.ac.uk)), Oli Hicks ([oli.hicks@student.shu.ac.uk](mailto:oli.hicks@student.shu.ac.uk)), Mars Nicoli ([mars.nicoli@student.shu.ac.uk](mailto:mars.nicoli@student.shu.ac.uk)), and Kirstie Rutter ([Kirstie.rutter@student.shu.ac.uk](mailto:Kirstie.rutter@student.shu.ac.uk))
- Abstract (300 words max.) and bio (75 words max.)
- Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023
- More information and full CFP: <https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/fear2000/cfp2023/>

## **RELEVANT BOOK SERIES**

**Hidden Horror Histories – Liverpool University Press**

- Series editors: Kate Egan, Shellie McMurdo, Laura Mee
- A series focusing on creative individuals in horror screen media throughout the genre's history which places particular emphasis on the contributions of horror creatives which have not been covered extensively in scholarship to date.
- Further information and full CFP: <https://baftsshorrort.weebly.com/book-series.html>

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Horror – Edinburgh University Press**

- Series editors: Alice Haylett Bryan, Craig Ian Mann, Thomas Joseph Watson

- A series of monographs and edited collections dedicated to the study of contemporary horror media – expanding the work established by the Fear 2000 conference series
- **Further information and full CFP:**
  - o <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/series-21st-century-horror>

### **Horror Studies – University of Wales Press**

- Series editor: Xavier Aldana Reyes
- Dedicated to the study of the genre in its various manifestations – from fiction to cinema and television, magazines to comics, and extending to other forms of narrative texts such as video games and music.
- **Further information and full CFP:**
  - o <https://www.uwp.co.uk/series/category/horror-studies/>

## **FORTHCOMING POINTS OF INTEREST**

### **CONFERENCES/EVENTS**

#### **The Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies**

- The Spring 2023 semester is underway!
- Forthcoming classes include Craig Ian Mann on Anti Capitalism in Contemporary American Horror and lots more
- For further information and tickets: <https://miskatonicinstitute.com/courses/>

#### **Ongoing – Romancing the Gothic**

- Free online classes and watchalongs
- Further information: <http://www.romancingthegothic.com>
- Upcoming events: <https://romancingthegothic.com/calendar-of-events/>
- Eventbrite page (for more information about upcoming events and to register): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/romancing-the-gothic-30996677463>