



HORROR STUDIES

BAFTSS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

September 2023 Bulletin

Hello friends and fiends – long time no see! We hope the summer treated you well.

Welcome to the September 2023 edition of the BAFTSS Horror Studies Special Interest Group Bulletin – Below you will find your usual helping of horror studies news – including calls for papers, information about new publications, and details of upcoming events.

The SIG bulletin is sent out every few months, and we are aiming to release our next edition in mid-January 2024. The deadline for inclusion in the next bulletin is the 1st of January 2024, so be sure to send over any news of horror screen studies publications, events, CFPs etc. to 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 wish to see what has been going on in the horror studies world since 2020.

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 horror studies field.

We hope the rest of your 2023 goes well!

All the very best,

Laura and Shellie

(SIG Co-convenors)

Website: <http://www.baftsshorrortweebly.com>

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/baftss_horror

HORROR SIG NEWS

Au revoir, Kate!

We wish to announce that our co-founder Kate Egan has now stepped 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. We want (as I'm sure you do too) to give her a massive thank you for all her hard work and great ideas for the SIG since it's inception.

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 – 2022-23 in review!

Since our last bulletin, we have hosted four more successful SIG Weekday 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 panellists 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 (and SIG co-convenor) 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 Weekday 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, panellists 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://baftsshorrortable.weebly.com/past-events.html>

FORTHCOMING WEEKDAY NIGHT BITES

(All free entry and held on Zoom)

We have the following events confirmed, but more to come – keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter for more details as we have them!

3rd October 2023 @ 7pm – 8.30pm (BST)

*****Please note this is a Tuesday rather than our usual Wednesday evening!**

Keep Watching The Skies: 30 Years of The X Files

- Organised in collaboration with the BAFTSS Science Fiction and Fantasy SIG
- Chair: Simon Brown
- Panellists:
 - David Clarke: Author of *How UFOs Conquered the World*
 - Bethan Jones: Author of *The Truth is Still Out There: 30 Years of The X-Files*
 - Diane Rodgers – co-editor of *The Legacy of the X-Files*
- **Full details and registration:** <https://forms.office.com/e/RDaUWawPnX>

29th November 2023 @ 7pm – 8.30pm (GMT)

Adapting Stephen King: A Roundtable Discussion

- Roundtable contributors:
 - Simon Brown
 - Craig Ian Mann
 - Shellie McMurdo
 - Laura Mee

******* In addition to our Weekday Night Bites event series, we have a current open call for papers for our third symposium – ***Dead Media: Contemporary Horror and the Analogue***. More information on that below!

WEEKDAY NIGHT BITES – CALL FOR PITCHES!

We are looking for your Weekday Night Bite pitches for the upcoming year – these can take the form of roundtable discussions, book launches, workshops, research presentations – whatever works for you.

You can have a watch of previous events on our website. The video archive now includes our most recent event: '**Natural Born Horrors: An Eco-Horror Roundtable**', and you can access it here:

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

Part of our role as a Special Interest Group is to facilitate connections and discussions between members, and to foster a network of postgraduate, early career, and established researchers in the field. We aim to spark collaborations and a collegial atmosphere, promote new and cutting-edge work, and to promote and support equality, diversity, and inclusivity within the horror studies community. A full list of our SIG aims can be found on our website (or alternatively on the official BAFTSS website) – our events are arranged in line with these.

So, if you have an idea for a Weekday Night Bite event, please get in touch! Through our Facebook, Twitter, or through direct email contact with one of the SIG convenors (Laura Mee (l.mee2@herts.ac.uk) or Shellie McMurdo (s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk))

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 currently have four books contracted to the series, which are:

Stacey Abbott and Lorna Jowett – *Women Creators of TV Horror*

Derek Johnson (ed.) *Nigel Kneale & Horror*

Lindsay Hallam – *Revenge in Australian Horror Cinema*

Erin Giannini – *Teen Screams: A Genealogy of Horror's Influence on Teen Media*

See below for more details and a link to our current CFP – 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)

Laura Mee (l.mee2@herts.ac.uk)

Shellie McMurdo (s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk)

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Devil's Advocates Series:

Steve A. Wiggins (2023) *The Wicker Man*

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781837644667>

Clive Dawson (2023) *I Walked With a Zombie*

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781837645169>

Rob McLaughlin (2023) *Poltergeist*

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781800856974>

Miranda Corcoran (2023) *The Craft*

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781802077247>

Susanne Kord (2023) *The Cabin in the Woods*

- Further information: <https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781800856448>

Shellie McMurdo (2023) *Pet Sematary*

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

Alissa Burger (2023) *IT Chapters One and Two*

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

*****DISCOUNT ALERT: There is currently 20% off the Devil's Advocates range through the Liverpool University Press website**

Olga Gershenson (2023) *New Israeli Horror: Local Cinema, Global Genre*, Rutgers University Press

- Further information: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/new-israeli-horror/9781978837843>
- EXCLUSIVE: BAFTSS Horror SIG 25% discount: <https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/baftss-horror-studies-sig/>

Wheeler Winston Dixon (2023) *History of Horror*, 2nd Edition, Rutgers University Press

- Further information: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/a-history-of-horror-2nd-edition/9781978833586>
- EXCLUSIVE: BAFTSS Horror SIG 25% discount!: <https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/baftss-horror-studies-sig/>

David Gilotta (2023) *Dead Funny: The Humor of American Horror*, Rutgers University Press

- Further information: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/dead-funny/9781978834163>
- EXCLUSIVE: BAFTSS Horror SIG 25% discount: <https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/baftss-horror-studies-sig/>

Aviva Briefel and Jason Middleton (eds.) *Labors of Fear: The Modern Horror Film Goes to Work*, University of Texas Press.

- Further information: <https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477327210/>
- EXCLUSIVE: BAFTSS Horror SIG 25% discount: <https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/baftss-horror-studies-sig/>

Kevin J. Donnelly and Louis Bayman (eds.) (2023) *Folk Horror on Film: Return of the British Repressed*. Manchester University Press.

- Further information: <https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526164926/>

James Rendell (2023) *Transmedia Terrors in Post-TV Horror: Digital Distribution, Abject Spectrums and Participatory Culture*. Amsterdam University Press.

- Further information: <https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463726320/transmedia-terrors-in-post-tv-horror>

Tom Fallows (2022) *George A. Romero's Independent Cinema*. Edinburgh University Press.

- Further information: <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-george-a-romero-s-independent-cinema.html>

*****DISCOUNT ALERT:** In case you missed it above, we have been given an EXCLUSIVE BAFTSS Horror SIG discount for several of the above titles (and many more besides): <https://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/baftss-horror-studies-sig/>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Film Matters 13.3 – which includes: Contemporary Horror Cinema Dossier

- Available here: https://intellectdiscover.com/content/journals/10.1386/fm_00248_1

Special Issue: 'Making Monsters' – Journal of Adaptation in Film & Performance 16.1-2

- Available here: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-adaptation-in-film-performance>

Brontë Schiltz (2022) 'Ghosts in the Living Room: The Televisual Gothic on Britain's Screens', *Death and the Screen*, 8(1), pp. 240-263

- Available here: <https://www.revenantjournal.com/contents/ghosts-in-the-living-room-the-televisual-gothic-on-britains-screens>

CHAPTERS

Reece Goodall (2023) 'Folk Horror in Inside No. 9: "Mr. King" and Contending Eco-narratives', in Simon Bacon (ed.) *Future Folk Horror: Contemporary Anxieties and Possible Futures*. Lexington Books. Pp. 303-316

Stella Gaynor (2023) "'She is saved now; I have washed her of all her sins": Coping with Death, Grief, and Cults in The Returned' in Simon Bacon (ed.) *Faith and the Zombie: Critical Essays on the End of the World and Beyond*. McFarland Press.

Stella Gaynor (2023) "'What else can I add?": Inverting the narrative through female perspectives in Falling for a Killer, My Favourite Murder, and Murder, Mystery and Makeup' in George Larke-Walsh (ed.) *True Crime in American Media*.

Brontë Schiltz (2023) "'I think there's a ghost in the TV": Britain's Televisual Gothic' in Aparajita Hazra (ed.) *The Gothique: Myriad Manifestations – A Study of the Various Forms of the Gothic*. Partridge Publishing India.

OTHER

Robert Wynne Simmons and Richard Wells (2022) *Blood on Satan's Claw or, The Devil's Skin*

- An illustrated novelisation of the cult Folk Horror Film, penned by its original screenwriter
- Further information: <https://unbound.com/books/blood-on-satans-claw-or-the-devils-skin/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Dead Media: Contemporary Horror and the Analogue

- The third BAFTSS Horror SIG Symposium
- Online (Zoom)
- Contact: Shellie McMurdo (s.mcmurdo2@herts.ac.uk) and Laura Mee (l.mee2@herts.ac.uk)
- To be held on Saturday 13 January 2024
- 200-250 word abstract with bio (100 words max)
- Abstract deadline: 29 September 2023
- **For more information and full CFP:** <https://baftsshorrort.weebly.com/dead-media-contemporary-horror-and-the-analogue-symposium.html>

CHAPTERS

Dying of Laughter: Horror Spoofs and Parody

- Contact: Reece Goodall (r.a.goodall@warwick.ac.uk)
- 300 word (max) abstract and 100 word (max) bio
- Abstract deadline: 29 September 2023
- Notification of acceptance: 1 October 2023
- If accepted, essays can be expected to be between 6,000 and 7,000 words (inc. references)
- **Further information:** <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2023/06/21/dying-of-laughter-horror-spoofs-and-parody>

American Folk Horrors

- Contact: Dawn Keetley (dek7@lehigh.edu)
- 250 word abstract and 150 word bio
- Abstract deadline: 29 October 2023
- Notification of acceptance: within three weeks
- If accepted essays can be expected to be around 6,000 words and due 13 May 2024
- **Further information:** <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2023/07/21/american-folk-horrors-edited-collection>

FORTHCOMING POINTS OF INTEREST

PUBLICATIONS

Doing Women's (Global) (Horror) Film History

- Special double issue of videographic criticism for MAI: Feminism and Visual Culture
- **Further information (and teaser trailer) here:** <https://www.alisonpeirse.com/dwghfh>

EVENTS

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>

The Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies

- The Fall 2023 semester has been announced!
- For further information and tickets: <https://miskatonicinstitute.com/2023/08/the-miskatonic-institute-of-horror-studies-announces-fall-2023-semester-of-classes/>

OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST

The Power of Pod Compels You

- A new horror-based podcast featuring SIG member Bruna Foletto Lucas and Lisa Guerts
- New episode every two weeks – available on Spotify, Google Podcasts, iHeartRadio, Alexa and more
- Twitter: @powerofpod
- **Further information:** <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1797482>

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>

21st 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:**
<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:**
<https://www.uwp.co.uk/series/category/horror-studies/>