

Horror as Social Commentary and Ideological Critique

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Inspired by Stephen King's *Danse Macabre* (1981), this volume focuses on the horror genre in literature, radio, TV, film, podcasts, and other media. The editors invite contributions from a range of disciplinary approaches, including sociology, cultural studies, media and communication studies, literature, gender studies, comic book studies, and film studies. Authors may find in the following questions useful departure points of inquiry.

1. How is horror related to societal fears, paranoia, or abuses of power?
2. How does a particular creative work of horror align with real-life horrors, however defined?
3. How can the horror genre be read as critical social commentary?
4. How can horror be used to understand particular social or political orientations (mass surveillance, neoconservative politics, capitalist culture)?
5. How can horror be read as a diversion, as a search for joy, pleasure, or happiness?

We aim to further knowledge of the aesthetics and history of horror in analysis of what horror tells us about the social world. The editors also invite interviews with 'practitioners of horror' (writers, artists, filmmakers) that will further knowledge of creative work within the genre.

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