

Nightmare '24 'Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice' – Applying academic research to practical innovations.

Dr David Edwards

Lecturer in Acting for Stage & Screen
The Northern School of Art



NIGHTMARE

SAR CONFERENCE 2024

'Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice'
– Applying academic research to practical innovations.

Discovery of new knowledge, and integration of
knowledge leading to new understanding

THE
NORTHERN
SCHOOL
OF ART

NIGHT MARE 24

CONFERENCE AIMS

The conference sought to align film-makers and academics to create a working dialogue across the industry. The themes of the conference shed light on the areas of mental health both in cinematic texts but also how audiences respond to these films. The conference developed our understanding of artistic, social and psychological attitudes to mental health representation.



NIGHTMARE 24

"Dreams or nightmares? Madness or sanity? I don't know which is which" - The Representation of Mental Health in the Horror Genre

Thursday 25th April 2024

9.00am – Registration [Refreshments Provided] (Student's Union, Church Square)

10.00am – Conference Opens

Opening Comments – Dr David Edwards (The Northern School of Art)

Let's Scare Jessica to Death Introduction (online) – Kim Newman (International Film Journalist/Author)

"Madness or sanity?" – Recontextualising Horror for the Contemporary Audience

10.30am – 12.00pm (Church Square Theatre)

Chair: Dr David Edwards (The Northern School of Art)

- "We all go a little mad sometimes": Re-evaluating Depictions of Mental Illness in the *Psycho* Sequels (Dr Reece Goodall, University of Warwick)
- Madness or Sanity: *Smile* and *Marrowbone* (Monesha Lawrence, National Institute of Technology, India)
- Haunted Selves: Dissociative Identity Disorder in Contemporary Horror Cinema (Dr Gemma Angel, University of Leicester, UK)
- The Autistic Canon and Coding Within the Horror Genre - From Changeling Children to Slashers on the Spectrum (Sophie Coleman, The Northern School of Art, UK)

1pm – Lunch [Provided] (Student's Union, Church Square)

"I can't exist by myself because I'm afraid of myself" - The Politics of the Abject Body

1.00pm – 2.30pm (Church Square Theatre)

Chair: Alyson Agar (The Northern School of Art)

- Killer Queers, Manic Pixie Dream Girls, and Old Lady Babies: Horror's Ongoing *Fetishisation* of Girls and their Pathology (Dr Robyn O'Leary, Stirling University, UK)
- Representing Postnatal Mental Illness in *Anti-Christ* & *The Upstairs House* (Georgia Popplett, Durham University, UK)
- Women, Hysteria and Patriarchy: Re-*Conceptualising* 'Dayan' (Witch) in reference to Indian Hindi Film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* (Gurpreet Kaur, Government P.G. College Panchkula Haryana, India)

NIGHTMARE 24

- Otherness and Sensory Horror: A Neurodivergent Reading of *Berberian Sound Studio* (Dr Amy Pearson, Durham University)

2.30pm – Break [Refreshments Provided] (Student's Union, Church Square)

"Your mind and your body don't belong to you" – Horror and Concepts of the Self

3.00pm-4.00pm (Church Square Theatre)

Chair: Dr Reece Goodall (University of Warwick)

- Let's Scare Jess...Again and Again (Dr Thomas Britt, George Mason University, USA)
- Of Spectral Dualities and Unseen Struggles: Examining the Perpetrator-Victim Dynamic and Mental Health Stereotypes in Indian Horror Films (Zainab Wahab, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)
- (Un)Real Reality: Delusional and Illusional Landscapes in Horror (Dr Catherine Pugh, Independent Scholar)

Keynote

4.00pm (Church Square Theatre)

Mothers, Madness and Monsters in *The Babadook* – Matt Glasby (International Film Journalist, author of *The Book of Horror: The Anatomy of Fear in Film*)

The Northern School of Art Short Film Screenings/Radio Drama Listening Posts

5.00pm (Church Square Theatre)

- *Love Bethany* (2022) dir. Oscar W. Fitchett (Level 6 Final Major Film Project)
- *Tender* (2024) dir. David Edwards (Level 5 Acting for Media Film Project)
- *Fellfoul* (2024) dir. Andrew Orton (Mulgrave Audio)
- *Flicker* (2024) dir. Elen Bodey (Level 6 Final Major Audio Drama Project)

Film Screening

7.00pm (Church Square Theatre)

Harold's Going Stiff (2011) followed by a live Q&A with director Keith Wright conducted by Bob Fischer (Fortean Times)

Closing Comments – Bob Fischer/Dr David Edwards

9.00pm – Conference Closes

Post-Conference Reception and the announcement of the Nightmare '24 Illustration Prize at The Owl, Scarborough Street

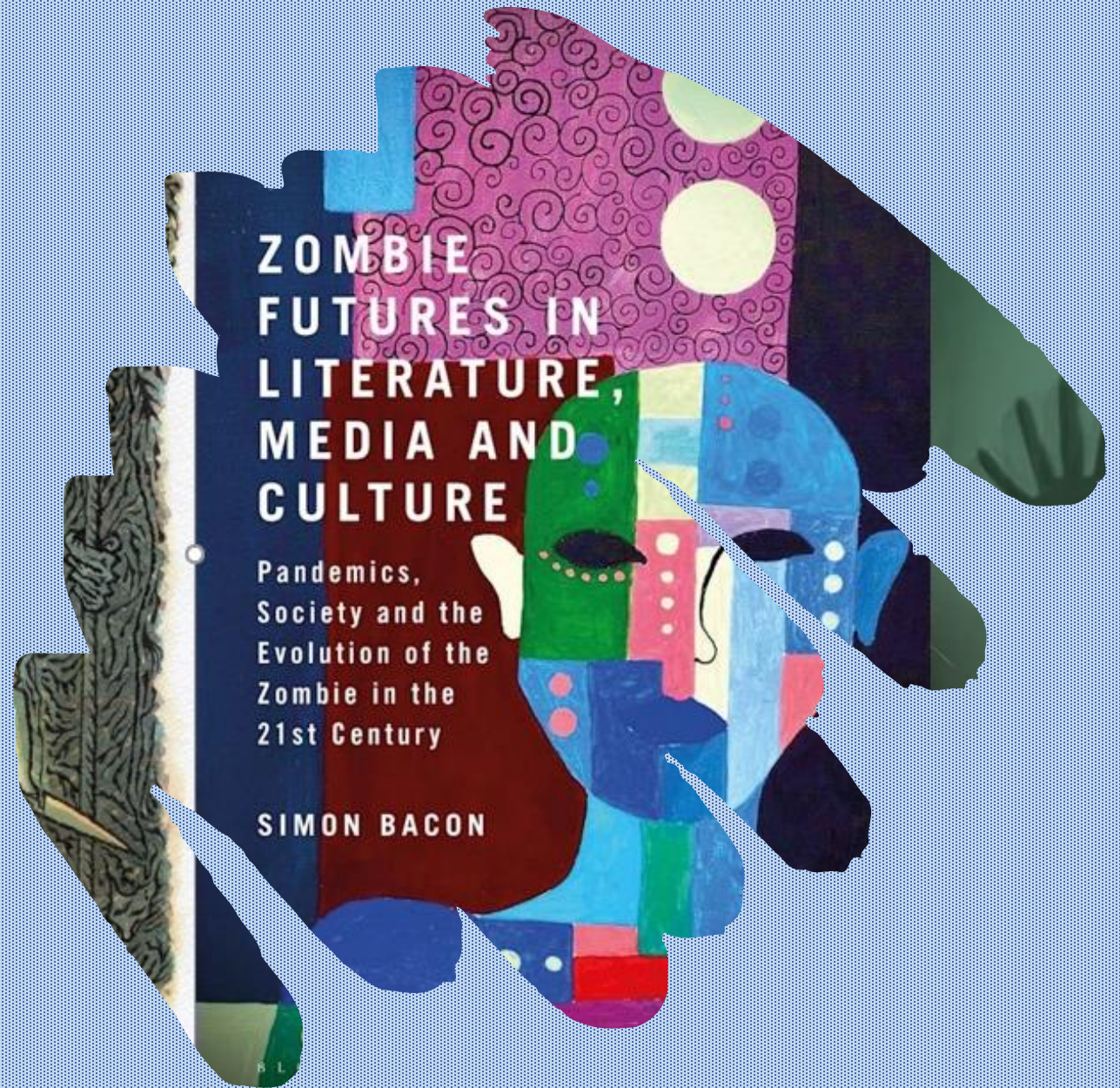
23/24

PUBLICATIONS

11/23 – *Horror Literature & Adaptation – Horror Homeroom* (Online Peer Reviewed Journal)

05/24 - *No More Haunted Dolls: Horror Fiction that Transcends the Tropes* - Series in Critical Media Studies (Vernon Press)

11/24 - *Zombie Futures in Literature, Media and Culture: Pandemics, Society and the Evolution of the Zombie in the 21st Century: Pandemics, Society and the Evolution of the Undead in the 21st Century* (Bloomsbury Academic)



FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

“You must be the loneliest girl I’ve ever seen” – Saint Maud, Religiosity and the Comfort in the Flames’. A24 & Horror (The University of Wales Press, 2025)

“All your decisions made” Toxic Masculinity in the Contemporary Zombie Film’. The Palgrave Book of the Zombie (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025)

“If I can change and you can change, everybody can change” – Sylvester Stallone’s reappraisal of Rocky IV with his Ultimate Director’s Cut’. Screen Storytelling Series – Sylvester Stallone (Bloomsbury Academic, 2026).



22/23/24 CONFERENCES

May 2022 – Unstoppable Performance:
Teaching Acting in Lockdown and Beyond,
Canadian Association for Theatre Research
CATR/ACRT-SQET, Canada

October 2022 – Redefining the Horror Loner in
Light of the Worldwide Lockdown – Cine-Excess
16, University of Birmingham, UK

June 2023 - The Loneliness of the Long-
Domestic Slasher - SWPACA Summer Online
Conference, Albuquerque, USA



23/23/24 CONFERENCES

July 2023 - *"I'm not alone, I'm here with you": Approaches to Loneliness in Independent British Horror, Fear 2000*, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

October 2023 - *"I have a scrupulous conscience, Father...this need to confess so many things" – Scrupulosity in Exorcist III*, Cine-Excess, University of Birmingham, UK

October 2024 – Cine-Excess, University of Birmingham, UK (TBC)

November 2024 – Stanislavsky and Psychology (University of Leeds & University of Malta) *Symposium will lead to new edited volume in the 'Stanislavsky and...' Routledge series.*





INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Psycho-Physical work – contemporary developments in IM/Voice/Volume

Mental Health & Re-contextualisation – performative and cinematic academic strands

Cinematic developments in performance/adaptation/new technologies



**THANK
YOU**

THE
NORTHERN
SCHOOL
OF ART

Recommended Citation:

Edwards, D. (2024) *Nightmare '24 'Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice' – Applying academic research to practical innovations.* Edition 9. The Northern School of Art Research & Scholarly Activity Conference. July 2024