

Interdisciplinary Essays on Monsters and the Monstrous

Emerald Interdisciplinary Connexions



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About the Series

Emerald Interdisciplinary Connexions promotes innovative research and encourages exemplary interdisciplinary practice, thinking and living. Books in the series focus on developing dialogues between disciplines and among disciplines, professions, practices and vocations in which the interaction of chapters and authors is of paramount importance. They bring cognate topics and ideas into orbit with each other whilst simultaneously alerting readers to new questions, issues and problems. The series encourages interdisciplinary interaction and knowledge sharing and, to this end, promotes imaginative collaborative projects which foster inclusive pathways to global understandings.

Interdisciplinary Essays on Monsters and the Monstrous: Imagining Monsters to Understand our Socio-Political and Psycho-Emotional Realities

EDITED BY

M. SUSANNE SCHOTANUS

Progressive Connexions, Netherlands



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About the Editor

M. Susanne Schotanus is the Director of Publications for Progressive Connexions and in that position is currently involved in the production of a range of books for the Emerald Interdisciplinary Connexions series. She's one of the co-founders of the Inter-Connexions publishing house as well as a freelance editor for both fictional and academic text. Her work is marked by a passion for interdisciplinarity and knowledge production, especially on those topics that have traditionally been considered taboo.

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About the Contributors

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Gerard Gibson is a PhD Researcher at Ulster University. He has a background in the visual arts and a professional illustration portfolio for numerous publishers following an honours degree in Graphic Design. He studied Film, gaining a Master's in Arts with Distinction from Queen's University, Belfast. He is particularly interested in crossing traditional academic and disciplinary divides to gain a more holistic understanding of the innate, but complex, forces and processes which drive and shape narrative expression in cinematic horror. His research combines practice and theory and is focused on understanding space, place and the material in film horror. He teaches, presents, exhibits and publishes. His practice works are in collections in the United Kingdom, Europe and have appeared in group shows across the United States.

Woodrow Hood, Director of Film and Media Studies at Wake Forest University, is a Director, Sound Designer and Producer. He has presented his scholarship at

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Megan Johnson (she/her) holds a Master's Degree in Popular Culture from Brock University. Her work focuses on feminist and queer representations in the media, with the intent of introducing more nuanced and accurate views on these often marginalised people into public discourse. In addition to her academic research, which aims to secure more safe and powerful positions for feminist and queer communities, she also works as an academic advisor. She is an Ontario Graduate Scholarship recipient and has been honoured with awards in the field of Social Sciences by Brock University.

Francesca Lopez is a PhD student in Comparative Literature at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Her background is in Communications (bachelor's) and Film (master's). She taught Communications and Media, Sociology, Advertising Communications, and Gender and Media Studies at Roma Tre University. Specialised in Gender and Media studies, her research is based on the analysis of the representation of lethal gendered violence in crime TV series, in the horror genre and in pornography with a focus on female corpses. In the last few years, she started focusing also on dissident bodies like monsters and mutants. She authored and co-authored several publications on gendered violence and its representation. Outside academia, she has experience working with NGOs, CAV (antiviolence centre) and several organisations fighting against all forms of gender violence. She is also an activist, author and writer. Actually, further her PhD, she teaches remotely Gender and Media at Roma Tre University in a master's programme (Gender and Politics).

Russ Martin (he/him) is a Writer, Editor and Scholar. He holds a Master's Degree in Popular Culture from Brock University, where his thesis work considered the impact of *RuPaul's Drag Race* on Toronto's drag scene. His journalism has been featured in the *Toronto Star*, *Flare*, the *National Post*, *Xtra* and *The Walrus*. Russ recently contributed to *Canadian Theatre Review's* drag-themed issue (vol. 185) and has contributed to a forthcoming volume on *Drag Race* from McFarland. He is an Event Producer with the Circus and its Other research project and a Producer and In-house Researcher for Toronto's online drag bar, Speakeasy TV. Russ currently teaches journalism at Ryerson University.

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online platforms not only as a means of sharing personal ideologies and frameworks of discourses, but amplifying marginalised voices as well. Continuing to channel these interests post-graduation, she currently acts as an on-air personality and reporter for YourTV Cogeco, and as a freelance social media strategist for fashion, food and lifestyle based companies in both Niagara and Toronto.

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No book comes together through the efforts of one person alone. As they say: it takes a village. In the case of this book, the village was a global one and various village elders have dedicated time and effort to make this volume happen.

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But that is not where the contribution of the Progressive Connexions network to this book ends. As a pioneering inclusive network, Progressive Connexions does more than any other organisation to create spaces where interdisciplinarity can be born and thinkers on wide-ranging subjects can meet and flourish. Rob Fisher's vision of an inclusive, transdisciplinary and international web of connections not only allowed the conference to happen, but has also encouraged us to rethink the nature of interdisciplinary publishing. His insistence that this vision also find its way into the Tables of Contents of books in the Emerald Interdisciplinary Connexions series – for which he is one of the series editors – inspired us to round out each section with a discussion between authors, which has lifted this book to a whole new level.

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But most of the credit, of course, goes to the absolutely amazing contributors to this volume: Elena Apostolaki, Melissa Blackie, Gerard Gibson, Woodrow Hood, Megan Johnson, Francesca Lopez, Russ Martin and Chloë Olivio. Work on this book began right at the start of the COVID pandemic and despite countless barriers, emotional events and an ongoing global crisis, they have managed to deliver on their promises and more. Throughout the process, the

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authors in this book have shown grit, perseverance, intellectual brilliance and compassion – qualities which, though not often discussed in this context, are essential in bringing together an edited volume of this quality.