

## **Special Issue**

### **Call for Papers: Issues of Gender within the Horror Genre**

Discussions surrounding gender and sexualities within the horror genre have become increasingly prominent in film and feminist scholarship over the last 40 years. With the emergence of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminism in the 1970's theorists began to look to film as a place where patriarchal power dynamics have been produced, reinforced, and gone unquestioned. As feminism gained momentum and academic recognition during the 70s and early 80s, horror films increased in popularity and began to appeal to a larger audience. Feminists were drawn to the highly gendered and often sexualized violence of the horror genre, particularly the popular "slasher" film. Although initially criticized for their victimization of female characters, the slasher film sparked an implicit discussion between feminists, cinephiles and filmmakers, resulting in a more prominent and expressive voice for female characters and a space of identification for female spectators of the horror genre. Carol Clover's book *Men, Women and Chainsaws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film* was one of the first key texts to challenge the implied patriarchal power dynamics of the horror film. Linda Williams, Barbara Creed and Cynthia Freeland also produced works that began to break away from the traditionally held view of horror films being primarily misogynistic.

The horror genre continues to expand and now includes dominant, intelligent and resourceful female characters, creating a space for the re-evaluation of the gendered possibilities of the genre. Furthermore, as feminisms and sexualities become more openly complex in both academic discourses and popular culture, discussions of how gender functions within horror films has become open-ended and exciting.

As the guest editor of [Offscreen](#) film journal, I am soliciting papers for a special issue surrounding issues of gender within the horror genre. Suggested (though not exclusive) approaches to the topic include:

- Survey of the Field of Literature/Book Review of Relevant Material
- Lesbian/Gay representations in the Horror Film
- Paracinema and Female Spectatorship
- 'Queering' the Horror Film
- Market Research Around Issues of Horror Spectatorship
- Transgendered issues in the Horror Film
- Representations of Mental Illness in the Horror Film
- Issues of Race and Gender in the Horror Film
- The Influence of European Horror Cinema of the 1960s, 1970s on Contemporary American Horror
- Medical Horror and Female Reproduction

- Analysis of Key Individual Films
- The Legacy of the 'Final Girl'
- The Female Horror Director

Those interested in submitting a paper should email the title, an abstract or completed work, as well as a brief (70-100 words) bio, to the address listed below. Please format the essay in Word, version 2002 or later. The deadline for submissions is November 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. Suggested word length is between 2000-5000 words. Compensation will be offered to accepted submissions.

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