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In Fading Light
The Films of the Amber Collective
James Leggott, Northumbria University

“Discussing Amber’s entire oeuvre is a formidable task, and Leggott accomplishes it with panache. His detailed readings of the individual films are insightful and informed, illustrated not only with reference to the local and regional contexts in which they were made but also to the wider contexts of British politics, culture and film history.”

Steve Presence, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

The Amber Film collective has been part of the British and European documentary scene since the late 1960s. Situating the work within wider social, political and historical contexts, In Fading Light interrogates how their critically acclaimed body of work—which includes documentaries, feature films, television films, and other experimental and campaigning projects—relates to other filmmakers in Britain and Europe.

April 2020, 318 pages, 21 illus., bibliog., index
ISBN 978-1-78920-650-0 Hb $149.00/£110.00 eISBN 978-1-78920-651-7 $27.95/£22.95

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From Self-fulfilment to Survival of the Fittest
Work in European Cinema from the 1960s to the Present
Ewa Mazierska, University of Central Lancashire

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Studies in European Cinema

Contrary to the assumption that Western and Eastern European economies and cinemas were very different from each other, they actually had much in common. After the Second World War both the East and the West adopted a mixed system, containing elements of both socialism and capitalism, and from the 1980s on the whole of Europe, albeit at an uneven speed, followed the neoliberal agenda. This book examines how the economic systems of the East and West impacted labor by focusing on the representation of work in European cinema.

January 2020, 312 pages, 19 illus., bibliog., index
FAME AMID THE RUINS
Italian Film Stardom in the Age of Neorealism
Stephen Gundle, University of Warwick

“Fame amid the Ruins is a comprehensive study with an impressive scope and great relevance for questions of history, politics, and intellectual life in postwar Italy. In clear and direct prose, it encompasses a variety of important topics and approaches, including individual biographies, stars’ roles within the wider industry, performance, and film style.” · Louis Bayman, University of Southampton

Italian cinema gave rise to some of the best-known films of the postwar years, and its stars were beloved by both the public and producers. This book explores the many conflicts over stars and stardom that arose during Italian cinema’s postwar rebirth, shedding new light on the close relationship forged between cinema and society.

November 2019, 384 pages, 30 illus., bibliog., index
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NEW IN PAPERBACK
Boro, L’Île d’Amour
The Films of Walerian Borowczyk
Edited by Kamila Kuc, Kuba Mikurda, and Michał Oleszczyk

“The contributors to this collection use new archival sources to provide a comprehensive map of Boro’s career and to reestablish his place in the history of Polish and European avant-garde and art cinema. All the essays are well informed and clearly written; collectively, they provide valuable insights into Boro’s often puzzling, sometimes scandalous motivations and productions.” · Choice

There has been a revival of interest in the work of Polish film director Walerian Borowczyk, a label-defying auteur and “escape artist” if there ever was one. This volume, markedly experimental in character, allows scholars to gain insight into previously unnoticed aspects of Borowczyk’s complex and ambiguous oeuvre.

January 2020, 210 pages, 13 illus., bibliog., index
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A Dramatic Reinvention
German Television and Moral Renewal after National Socialism, 1956–1970
Stewart Anderson, Brigham Young University

“This engagingly written book presents an original take on the familiar topic of postwar Germany’s ‘coming to terms with the past,’ with a strong emphasis on television as a significant agent of change.” · Paul Moore, University of Leicester

March 2020, 224 pages, bibilog., index
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COMRADES IN ARMS
Military Masculinities in East German Culture
Tom Smith, University of St Andrews

“a detailed and interesting analysis of East German masculinities and of the East German military through literature and film.” · Nick Hodgin, Cardiff University

Without question, the East German National People’s Army was a profoundly masculine institution that emphasized traditional ideals of stoicism, sacrifice, and physical courage. Nonetheless, as this innovative study demonstrates, depictions of the military in the film and literature of the GDR were far more nuanced and ambivalent.

February 2020, 280 pages, 10 illus., bibilog., index
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Sensitive Subjects
The Political Aesthetics of Contemporary German and Austrian Cinema
Leila Mukhida, University of Cambridge

“This very well-constructed book has a lot to offer, including a uniquely systematic methodological approach to contemporary German-language cinema, an engaging discussion of a range of German-language films that have not been discussed together before, and a very accessible and elegant prose style that is a real pleasure to read.” · Marco Abel, University of Nebraska

Volume 23, Film Europa
June 2020, 248 pages, 20 ills, bibilog., index
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Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema
Edited by Barbara Hales, University of Houston-Clear Lake and Valerie Weinstein, University of Cincinnati

“An important contribution to an understanding of filmmaking in Germany during the Weimar Republic. This volume offers a multi-faceted, in-depth investigation into the Jewish presence in Weimar cinema both on screen, in various genres, and off screen through biographical sketches and film reviews.” - Barbara Kosta, University of Arizona

The burgeoning film industry in the Weimar Republic was, among other things, a major site of German-Jewish experience, one that provided a sphere for Jewish “outsiders” to shape mainstream culture. The chapters collected in this volume deploy new historical, theoretical, and methodological approaches to understanding the significant involvement of German Jews in Weimar cinema. Reflecting upon different conceptions of Jewishness – as religion, ethnicity, social role, cultural code, or text – these studies offer a wide-ranging exploration of an often overlooked aspect of German film history.

Volume 24, Film Europa
October 2020, 384 pages, 19 ills, bibliog., index
ISBN 978-1-78920-872-6 Hardback $145.00/£107.00
eISBN 978-1-78920-873-3 $34.95/£24.00

East German Film and the Holocaust
Elizabeth Ward, University of Hull

“Offering new historical information coupled with refined close readings and an impressive amount of archival work, East German Film and the Holocaust is an informative, insightful and fascinating book. It will be of interest to film scholars and historians alike.” - Brad Prager, University of Missouri

East Germany’s ruling party never officially acknowledged responsibility for the crimes committed in Germany’s name during the Third Reich. Instead, it cast communists as both victims of and victors over National Socialist oppression while marginalizing discussions of Jewish suffering. Yet for the 1977 Academy Awards, the Ministry of Culture submitted Jakob der Lügner – a film focused exclusively on Jewish victimhood that would become the only East German film to ever be officially nominated. By combining close analyses of key films with extensive archival research, this book explores how GDR filmmakers depicted Jews and the Holocaust in a country where memories of Nazi persecution were highly prescribed, tightly controlled and invariably political.

Volume 22, Film Europa
July 2020, 264 pages, 27 illus., bibliog., index
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Humanitarianism and Media
1900 to the Present
Edited by Johannes Paulmann, Leibniz Institute of European History

“This very readable volume must be considered as an important contribution to a history of humanitarian activities. The contributors managed to use productively theories from media- and communication studies and, in addition, offer methodically fresh ideas for historical picture and film analysis.” · H-Soz-Kult

Humanitarianism & Media brings together scholars from a variety of backgrounds to offer an unprecedented exploration of the history behind humanitarian efforts and the media, spanning from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

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Don’t Need No Thought Control
Western Culture in East Germany and the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Gerd Horten, Concordia University

“In this book Gerd Horten brilliantly analyses the problematic impact of Western consumer culture on the GDR in the 1970s and 1980s. No other study has so clearly highlighted the connection between consumer culture and the collapse of the regime. It expands our view of the too often neglected late GDR and offers a persuasive explanation of its decline.” · Christoph Classen, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History

Don’t Need No Thought Control explores the dynamic interplay between popular demands, intensifying economic crises, and cultural policy decisions during the Erich Honecker era in a comprehensive and comparative analysis.

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Media Practices and Changing African Socialities  
Non-media-centric Perspectives  
Edited by Jo Helle-Valle, Oslo Metropolitan University, and Ardis Storm-Mathisen, Oslo Metropolitan University  
Afterword by Thomas Hylland Eriksen

“This is a fascinating set of ethnographic and empirically based studies with an excellently penned Introduction.” · Keyan Tomaselli, University of Johannesburg

Deriving from innovative new work by six researchers, this book questions what the new media’s role is in contemporary Africa. The chapters are diverse - covering different areas of sociality in different countries - but they unite in their methodological and analytical foundation. The focus is on media-related practices, which require engagement with different perspectives and concerns while situating these in a wider analytical context. The contributions to this collection provide fresh ethnographic descriptions of how new media practices can affect socialities in significant but unpredictable ways.

Volume 9, Anthropology of Media  
March 2020, 250 pages, bibliog., index  
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Theorising Media and Conflict  
Edited Philipp Budka, University of Vienna  
and Birgit Bräuchler, Monash University

Theorising Media and Conflict brings together anthropologists as well as media and communication scholars to collectively address the elusive and complex relationship between media and conflict. Through epistemological and methodological reflections and the analyses of various case studies from around the globe, this volume provides evidence for the co-constitutiveness of media and conflict and contributes to their consolidation as a distinct area of scholarship. Practitioners, policymakers, students and scholars who wish to understand the lived realities and dynamics of contemporary conflicts will find this book invaluable.

Volume 10, Anthropology of Media  
April 2020, 340 pages, bibliog., index  
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Velvet Retro
Postsocialist Nostalgia and the Politics of Heroism in Czech Popular Culture

Veronika Pehe, Czech Academy of Sciences

“Velvet Retro draws surprising and illuminating connections between various aspects of postsocialist culture and politics. It innovatively combines the history of popular culture, film and literary studies, memory studies, and comparative nationalism to establish a novel connection between retro aesthetics and postsocialist political culture.”

· Pavel Kolář, University of Konstanz

This innovative study develops the concept of “retro” to describe the nuanced and ironic depiction of the past as seen in Czech popular culture. It locates a distinctively retro aesthetic in Czech literature, film, and other cultural forms, enriching our understanding of not only the nation’s memory culture, but also the ways in which popular culture can structure collective memory.

Volume 2, Worlds of Memory
February 2020, 190 pages, 8 illus., bibliog., index
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Revisiting Austria
Tourism, Space, and National Identity, 1945 to the Present

Gundolf Graml, Agnes Scott College

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· Tim Kirk, Newcastle University

“Revisiting Austria is one of the best works that I have read on the issue of coming to terms with the Nazi past—in this case, Austria’s difficulty in confronting it. The author’s suggestions that this legacy is less repressed than disruptive is a significant contribution.”

· Shelley Baranowski, University of Akron

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April 2020, 342 pages, 18 illus., bibliog., index
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Reluctant Skeptic
Siegfried Kracauer and the Crises of Weimar Culture

Harry T. Craver, University of North Carolina

“Harry Craver’s rich and nuanced study revisits Kracauer’s nonconformist views and underscores the religious context in which they emerged... In portraying Kracauer’s reflections on religious concepts as emblematic of post–World War I German intellectual life, Craver sets the stage for a novel, intriguing discussion of Weimar modernity and its crisis.”
· American Historical Review

Best remembered for investigations of film and other media, journalist and critic Siegfried Kracauer offered a seismographic reading of the Weimar-era confrontation between religion and secular modernity. This discerning study analyzes and contextualizes Kracauer’s early output, showing how he identified the quasi-theological roots of the era’s cultural ferment.

Volume 14, Spektrum: Publications of the German Studies Association
January 2020, 294 pages, bibliog., index
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Dreams of Germany
Musical Imaginaries from the Concert Hall to the Dance Floor

Edited by Neil Gregor, University of Southampton and Thomas Irvine, University of Southampton

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· German History

Why is Germany imagined as the ‘land of music’? How has that image been made over time? Exploring examples that range from Bruckner to the Beatles, from classical song to sex-club dance music, a team of historians and musicologists explores these perennial questions in innovative and exciting ways.

Volume 18, Spektrum: Publications of the German Studies Association
July 2020, 320 pages, 14 illus., bibliog., index
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