

THE POLITICS OF CLOSE ANALYSIS

Eileen Rositzka (1988-2021)

This dossier was to have included a contribution from Eileen Rositzka, the exciting author of *Cinematic Corpographies: Remapping the Body Through Film* (2018), whose work brought skilful close textual analysis together with groundbreaking work on bodies and war at the intersection of Film Studies, War Studies and Geography. Her work was opening up new ways to think about the representation of war onscreen, but she also brought her incisive and illuminating analysis to bear on a striking range of film and television texts that, in different ways, raised questions about the politics of representation, and the depiction of bodies and borders, from popular science fiction cinema to cinemas of migration, from feminist television to horror to realist cinema.

Eileen was writing an essay for the dossier which reflected on the extent to which festival sidebars – like Cannes' *Un Certain Regard* – that are intended to platform potentially discounted films actually represent a further act of marginalisation due to their 'curatorial separation from the main festival strand', as she puts it. She was exploring this theme through a close reading of the Ali Abbasi film *Gräns / Border* (2018), which won the *Un Certain Regard* award at the 2018 Cannes film festival, bringing it into striking dialogue with



another film equally (but differently) interested in corporeal transgressions and their screen depiction, Jonathan Glazer's *Under the Skin* (2013). This summary alone indicates the originality of Rositzka's approach.

Tragically, Eileen died before the essay could be completed in final form. The dossier is the poorer for its absence, but the more deeply, keenly felt loss for the dossier editors and the wider film community is Eileen herself. As the moving tributes from [Cinepoetics](#) and the SCMS [War & Media](#)

[Studies Special Interest Group](#) among others attest, Eileen was a much-loved scholar, colleague and friend, with a wide network of peers who benefitted from her intellect, her warm friendship, her good humour, and her instinctively activist collegiality. We miss her greatly.

Lisa Purse and Lucy Fife Donaldson

Editors, Dossier: The Politics of Close Analysis, and its Object

Acknowledgments

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Works Cited

Rositzka, Eileen (2018) *Cinematic Corpographies: Remapping the Body Through Film*. Berlin: De Gruyter.