



## Curating Folk Horror: Anti-Canonisation, Critical Transnationalism, and Crossover Festival Programming

*Cüneyt Çakırlar, Nottingham Trent University*

Date: Tuesday, April 23rd

Time: 10am-11am (NZT)

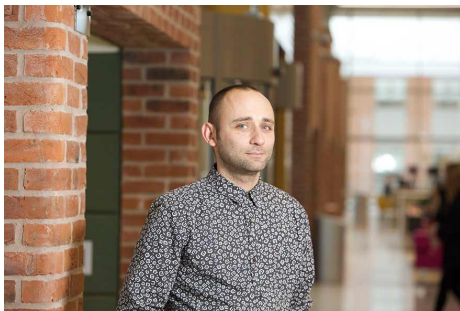
Venue: BURNS4, Otago University

Zoom ID: 972 2034 3514

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An output of the British Academy project titled *Transnational Horror, Folklore, and Cultural Politics* [<https://folkhorrorproject.uk>], this paper proposes an alternative methodology to the study of transnational horror film, that attends to the curatorial affordances of film studies and its engagement with the canon (and the canonising practices). Following an analysis of recent curatorial attempts to frame the “folk horror revival” in transnational settings, this study focuses on the themed selection of film screenings, *Mined Zone: Folk Horror*, which the author curated for the International Istanbul Film Festival (8-19 April 2022). The screening programme aimed to introduce Istanbul’s festival audiences to geographically diverse representations of folklore-through-horror in world cinema. Critically reflecting on the curatorial possibilities and limitations of (i) de-westernising film criticism and horror spectatorship, and (ii) facilitating cross-cultural mobility of non-Anglophone horror cinemas through an anti-canonising approach to horror-as-genre, this paper will provide a critical account of transnationalism to understand the contemporary revival of folk horror and its reception in international festival settings.



Cüneyt Çakırlar is an Associate Professor of Film and Visual Culture at Nottingham Trent University, UK. His current research practice focuses on sexuality studies, global visual cultures, and transnational horror studies. Çakırlar has taught on queer arts and film theory at University College London (UK), Boğazici University (Turkey), Koç University (Turkey), and Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey). His articles appeared in various international peer-reviewed journals including *Critical Arts*, *Cineaction*, [in]Transition, *New Review of Film and Television Studies*, *Paragraph*, and *Screen*. He co-edited a volume about cultures of sexual dissidence in contemporary Turkey, namely *Cinsellik Muamması: Türkiye’de Queer Kültür ve Muhalefet*(2012), co-authored *Mustang: Translating Willful Youth* (2022), and co-translated Judith Butler’s *Bodies That Matter* (1993) into Turkish (Pinhan, 2014). Çakırlar has also worked with various arts institutions and curatorial collectives based in Turkey, Germany, USA, and UK. He currently leads a British Academy project on “Transnational Horror, Folklore, and Cultural Politics” (2021-2023).

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