



**Reading the Dystopian Imagination in Films:
Parallels Between the Science-Fiction Narrative and Reality**

Prachi Kholia

Abstract:

A post-apocalyptic scene in the dystopian world is usually set in an uninhabitable place with clear signs of disintegration, characterized by extreme suffering, fear of oppression, violence, segregation and class-division based on identity politics for complete control of the general population. The narrative is often built around a large-scale disaster and raises crucial questions about the future. The reason why dystopian narratives matter in the present scenario is in relation to the political situation as well as the condition of women in modern society which is alarmingly concerning. Reality mirrors the dystopian imagination which embodies these socio-political concerns. It launches a dialogue about the future and in doing so, becomes a form of resistance towards it. This paper explores the fascination with dystopian narratives in science-fiction films while drawing parallels between fiction and reality considering the recent pandemic, in order to address the appeal of dystopia as a genre. It presents science-fiction narratives as a necessary step towards the possibility of a better world through the critique of the present, despite the overwhelmingly melancholic imagination the genre embodies.

Keywords: Science-Fiction, Dystopia, Narratives, Film Studies.