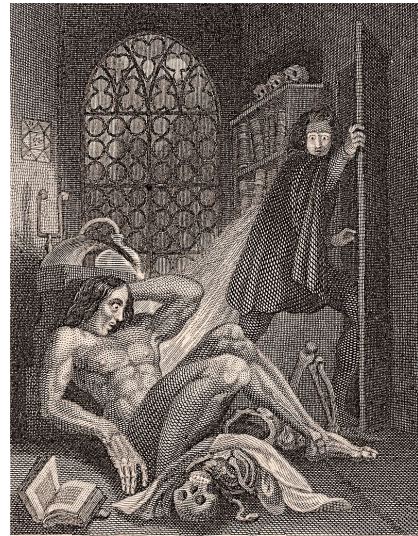The Horror of Relations: A Dark Philosophy of Interdependence Through Film

The idea of interdependence is all around us. It results from the explosive growth of "ecological thinking" broadly construed. Fundamental to that idea is the view that, in some way, we're all connected – to each other, to other organisms, and to our environments both analog and digital. And implicit here is the idea that this connectedness is a good and beautiful thing. Being connected *well* makes us stronger, healthier, more engaged, and more thoughtful. Yet lurking under this positive view is a dark view – a view that being connected is existentially horrifying. Being connected in that strong sense of being interdependent with others threatens what it is to be a self, and what it is to be an individual. This darkness lurks in the closet of our subconscious like a spectre, haunting us without us even being aware of the root cause. This volume seeks to turn on the light and reveal that spectre for what it is: the dark side of interdependence.

Frontispiece_to_Frankenstein_1831

Because of the deep-rooted implicit assumptions about the beauty and goodness of ecological thinking, this volume sets out to examine interdependence as a problem through representations of that dark spectre specifically through film. In many film genres, particularly perhaps in horror and science fiction, implicit assumptions have a way of becoming seen. The ongoing success of television series like *The Walking Dead*, reboots of the *Alien* series, and the blockbuster movies like *Interstellar* evidence how films can help make the implicit salient, bringing us uniquely face-to-face with our dark spectres. Film also privileges *engagement* and *access*: thus, scholarly contributions for this volume should be written for a general audience.

I seek contributions to this volume focused on the *problem* of interdependence. Chapters might include considerations connecting film(s) to ecology, psychology, microbial biology, social relations, familial relations, political science and globalism, digital media and technologies, among others. Contributions from advanced graduate students and junior faculty are particularly encouraged.

If you are interested in participating in this volume, please submit an abstract of your proposed chapter of approximately 500 words, along with a brief cover letter describing how you see your work fitting within the scope of the volume. The deadline for submissions is January 15th, 2019.

Proposals or any inquiries about the volume should be sent to Jonathan Beever (jonathan.beever@ucf.edu). Thank you for considering being part of this project!