

Gendering Science Fiction Films: Invaders from the Suburbs

Susan A. George



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In the 1950s, science fiction (SF) invasion films played a complicated part in both supporting and criticizing Cold War ideologies. George examines what these films reveal about the tensions in the United States at the dawn of the atomic age especially concerning gender roles and expectations. Using a cultural studies approach, she works from the assumption that "invasion" films with their "us" versus "them" nature provide important visual and verbal narratives for American citizens' trying to understand and negotiate the social and political changes that followed the allied victory in World War II. By reading these invasion narratives as performances of middle-class, primarily white Americans' excitement and anxieties about social and political issues, George shows how they often played out as another round in the battle of the sexes. This book examines the way representation in these films tap into anxieties concerning the feminine and alien other.

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