

53-544 Tours of Duty – Narratives of Conflict in British Film/TV Productions

Seminar II

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Seminar: Mo 14–16 c.t. (Phil 1219)

Summer term 2015

First session: April 13

Screenings: Mo 10–12 s.t. (Phil 1269)

In this seminar we will discuss British film and television productions of the past decade dealing with violent conflict in the twenty-first century. More precisely the seminar investigates fictional TV/film narratives that negotiate contemporary military engagements and their impact on British culture. By extension we also touch upon the wider context of the 'War on Terror.' This will provide us with the opportunity to investigate a range of audio-visual formats, ranging from feature films (e.g. *The Mark of Cain* 2007) to TV series/serials (e.g. *Occupation* 2009) to short films (e.g. *Ten Days to War* 2008).



Accused (BBC 2010), *Four Lions* (Film4 2010), *War Hero* (Peasant Films 2007), *London River* (3B Productions 2009)

By discussing aspects of media theory we will approach the medium of film/television and deal with the specificities of its formats. We will also delve into the textual analysis of the material from a cultural studies perspective. What are the contemporary issues and critical debates relevant to these productions? Possible aspects of investigation are the representation of masculinities, theories of trauma, conceptualisations of (cultural) identity, ethical questions arising from the conflicts and others.

Conditions of participation: In addition to regular reading assignments students are required to attend weekly screening sessions (Mo 10–12 s.t. in Phil 1269).

Credit requirements: Regular and active participation, an oral presentation or other *Studienleistung* (details will be announced in the first session), and a term paper (15–20 pages).