

Name: Abirami M

Qualification:

My academic journey which includes a Bachelor's degree in English from Kundavai Naachiyar, arts and science government college (Autonomous), Thanjavur and a Master's degree from Bishop Heber College, Trichy has equipped me to undertake this research.

Research Area: English Literature (Ecocriticism in Holocaust film works)

Background

While the focus of Holocaust films often been focus on human trauma and memory, nothing much has been said of the nonhuman victims of war such as landscapes, ecosystems, and natural environments ravaged and decimated by genocide and war. This study situates Holocaust films within ecocriticism, questioning how nature, so frequently perceived as a passive background as in fact deeply complicit in war. Through detailed analysis of selected holocaust films, the project examines how human war during the Holocaust eradicated not only human life but also eradicated the natural world. Forests, rivers, snow plains and ransacked towns are transformed into cinematic playgrounds where environmental destruction and human atrocities collide.

Come and See (1985), directed by Elem Klimov, is one of the most harrowing anti-war films ever made and it is also a perfect text for ecocritical analysis in my Holocaust-focused PhD project. Though it primarily depicts the Nazi occupation of Belarus, and it portrays an ecological destruction and nature's silent suffering. This project will recast Holocaust film studies through an ecocritical optic in which manmade war turns ecocide and how this has been represented in film.

Research Objectives:

- To analyse how Holocaust films depict nature as a victim of war and genocide.
- To examine the environmental consequences of manmade war as portrayed visually and symbolically in selected films.
- To foreground nature's role in Holocaust narratives not as setting, but as witness, sufferer, or active presence.
- To contribute to ecocritical film studies by focusing on environmental trauma in Holocaust and war cinema.

Methodology:

- The study will Combine the Holocaust studies, environmental humanities, and film theory, and focus on cinematography, setting, and symbolic use of nature in the visual reading.
- It will employ close textual analysis, supported by theories of eco-trauma theory, visual culture and film theory, Posthumanism, Memory and landscape theory.

Expected Contribution:

This research will contribute to the emerging field of eco-trauma studies, demonstrating how environmental devastation is integral to understanding the full scope of holocaust narratives in films. It draws attention to nonhuman suffering, shifting the ethics of remembrance beyond the human-centred frameworks, and focus on ecocide during the man-made war and concerning about ecological life.