

IN MEDIA RES FALL 2018 CALL FOR CURATORS

Reboots, Updates, and Reinterpretations

CALL: When describing a recent industry trend to greenlight products that reboot, restart, or reinterpret dormant, but beloved franchises, Suzanne Scott describes the resulting content as ““zombified” media properties.” Scott’s term humorously calls attention both to the mindless financial motivation behind these decisions and the generally unfavorable critical reaction to the simultaneous living and dead charge of the properties. Aaron Taylor similarly points out that these revived franchises can serve as an “erasure of years’ worth of continuity. . .usher in new creative teams, and/or jettison unpopular story developments.” Occasionally, these zombified reboots even update problematic politics or representations present in their original incarnations. Though often viewed negatively, many of these endeavors find financial and critical success.

This theme week seeks submissions that engage with these sorts of properties across a range of media, including film, television, and comic books. Possible topics may include:

- The box office success of David Gordon Green’s *Halloween* (2018) sequel and how it erases continuity in order to reframe Laurie Strode in the age of #MeToo.
- Luca Guadagnino’s reinterpretation of Dario Argento’s *giallo* classic, *Suspria* (1977), especially in regard to Guadagnino’s muting of the *mise en scène*.
- Sony’s all-female *Ghostbusters* (2016) reboot; especially the conflicting backlash and box office success of the film.
- *Casino Royale* (2006) as both a reboot of the Bond franchise and its sexual politics.
- Various progressive updates of comic book characters, such as the rebranding of Carol Danvers from Ms. Marvel to Captain Marvel.
- Jodie Whitaker’s casting as the first female lead in *Doctor Who*.
- The rebooting of the *Tomb Raider* video game franchise around a younger, de-sexualized Laura Croft.

Proposals may be brief, but please describe the topic and key question(s) to be explored in detail. Please submit your proposal by [November 1st, 2018](#). If interested, please contact *In Media Res* (inmediares@gsu.edu) with topic proposals or for more information about the theme. Be sure to include the name of the theme week you would like to be involved with in the subject line of the email.

Academics, journalists, critics, media professionals and fans are all welcome to submit proposals.

The actual piece will include either a 30-second to 3-minute clip, an image, or a slideshow that will be accompanied by a 300 to 350 word response to/contextualization of your clip, image, or slideshow. In addition to your piece, you will be expected to engage the other pieces presented that week to encourage discussion and further flesh out the individual topic in relation to the week's theme.

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