

# Nicholas Diak

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## Education

### School

University of Washington, Tacoma WA  
Master of Arts – Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (2012)

### Thesis

“*Danza Macabra* – The reevaluation of Antonio Margheriti through His Film *Castle of Blood*”  
(Proquest 2012)

## Bibliography

### Books as Editor

*Horror Literature from Gothic to Post-Modern: Critical Essays* (McFarland, 2020)

*The New Peplum: Essays on Sword and Sandal Films and Television Programs Since the 1990s*  
(McFarland, 2018)

### Essays and Journal Articles

“*Analisi Della Cosa*: Found Footage in *Caltiki* and Italian Theater Going Practices” in *Footage Fiends* Q1 2023.

“*Animi Scrinium Servitus*: *Westworld* as a Sword and Sandal Slave Film” in an untitled anthology on *Westworld* forthcoming from McFarland

“Correlating the Contents: Mimetic Desire in ‘The Call of Cthulhu’” in *Dark Dead Things* #2, 2023.

“Cullzathro Fhtagn!: Magnifying the Carnavalesque in Lovecraft Through the Comic Book Series *Vinegar Teeth*” at *Academia Letters* (Academia.edu, 2021)

“Dance or Dēcēdere: *Gladiator* and Industrial Music Sampling” in *A Hero Will Endure: Essays at the Twentieth Anniversary of Gladiator* (Vernon Press, 2023)

“Dreams of the House of the Worm: Gary Myers’ Debut Dreamlands Story” in *Dead Reckonings*, Spring 2018.

“An Imperial Decree? Soitenly! Matri-Phony as Proto-Toga and Sandal Comedy” in *The Journal of Stoogeological Studies* #1, Fall 2023.

"Lost Nights and Dangerous Days: Unraveling the Relationship Between *Stranger Things* and Synthwave" in *Uncovering Stranger Things: Essays on Eighties Nostalgia, Cynicism and Innocence in the Series* (McFarland, 2018)

“Meteor Madness: Lovecraftian Horror and Consumerism in the Battle for Small Town USA” in *Horror in Space: Critical Essays on a Film Subgenre* (McFarland, 2017)

“Permission to Kill: Exploring Italy’s 1960s Eurospy Phenomenon, Impact and Legacy” in *James Bond and Popular Culture: Essays on the Influence of the Fictional Superspy* (McFarland, 2014)

Review on *The Comic Book Story of Video Games: The Incredible History of the Electronic Gaming Revolutions* in the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, Dec 2016 (Taylor & Francis Group)

Review on *Drawn and Dangerous: Italian Comics of the 1970s and 1980s* in the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, Dec 2015 (Taylor & Francis Group)

“Strange Realities: *Twilight Zone*-sploitation in *Encounter with the Unknown*” in *The Many Lives of the Twilight Zone: Essays on the Television and Film Franchise* (McFarland, 2022)

“When the Stars are Right: The *Weird Tales* Origins of Cosmic Horror” in *Weird Tales* #367, 2023.

## **Conference Presentations**

### **Ann Radcliffe Academic Conference**

Co-creator and co-chair (2017-2022) of this academic conference

2022

- Presenter: “Correlating the Contents: Mimetic Desire in ‘The Call of Cthulhu’”

2021

- Presenter: “Strange Realities: *Twilight Zone*-sploitation in *Encounter with the Unknown*”

2019

- Presenter: “Cullzathro Fhtagn!: Magnifying the Carnavalesque in Lovecraft Through the Comic Book Series *Vinegar Teeth*”

2018

- Presenter: “Lost Nights and Dangerous Days: Feedback Loop Between *Stranger Things* and Synthwave Music”

2017

- Presenter: “Perfection is a Process: Intertextuality Between *Herbert West - Re-Animator* and Dynamite Comics' *Re-Animator* Series”

### **Comics Arts Conference**

2018

- Presenter: “Perfection is a Process: Intertextuality Between *Herbert West - Re-Animator* and Dynamite Comics' *Re-Animator* Series”

### **Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association**

2021

- Presenter: “Victory Or Valhalla: Violence via *Vikings* Sampling in Acylum’s *Kampf Dem Verderb*”

### **Southwest Popular/American Culture Association**

2014

- Presenter: "Spionaggio all'italiana - Exploring Italy's Spy Film Phenomenon and its Importance to Italian Film Canon"
- Panel chair for James Bond and Popular Culture Panel
- Roundtable chair for the film *The Quiller Memorandum* (1966)

2013

- Presenter: "Agent 077 Bob Fleming Reporting for Duty – A Comparative Analysis of a Bond Derivative"

2012

- Presenter: “The Complete Dossier: Revisiting Antonio Margheriti's Eurospy Film *Lightning Bolt*”

2011

- Presenter: “The Haunting May Be Ephemeral but the Terror is Forever: Unearthing the Italian Gothic Horror Tropes of Margheriti’s *Castle of Blood*”
- Roundtable chair for the film *Maniac* (1934)

2010

- Presenter: “On Martyrs, Propaganda, and Coconuts: An Examination of Antonio Margheriti’s Vietnam War Film *The Last Hunter*”
- Panel chair for the panels on exploitation films

2009

- Presenter: “The Films of Antonio Margheriti”
- Roundtable chair for the film *Cannibal Holocaust*