



Civilizational Collapse: Dystopian Imaginings of the Past, Present, and Future (1880 – Present)

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British Library

The fear of Civilization collapse is a thread that runs through much of the literature, cinema, and other media of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Whereas the Utopian moment is paradigmatically in the future, the Dystopic moment is paradigmatically in the past. Dark ages, political catastrophes, and apocalyptic ends haunt the modern. The sheer inventiveness of the manifold ways in which the world may be brought to an end encourages us to understand the apocalyptic urge as a central element within contemporary societies.

Current speakers include: Lindsay Allen, Greg Claeys, James Kneale, Richard Overy, Joanna Paul, Patrick Parrinder, Phiroze Vasunia, and Ika Willis

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WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to investigate how and why the apocalyptic urge manifests itself in modern societies. We propose a multi-disciplinary approach to challenge methodological conventions and allow a triangulation of the emerging narrative within differing critical traditions. To this end, we invite contributions from across the arts, humanities and social sciences that address those aforementioned themes.

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