Epistemological Futures & Film Scanning
By Alex Burns (alex@disinfo.com). Australian Foresight Institute/Disinformation®, September 2002.

Abstract

The academic legitimatization of Futures Studies has often been publicly defined by reference to popular film imagery and problem-oriented cycles. This essay explores the depth perspective offered by combining the Spiral Dynamics® model of human values systems with ‘DIY’ DVD commentaries. It differentiates between pop futures and critical/epistemological perspectives, and considers how the Film Scanning methodology may be applied in academic teaching and consultancy environments. Current debates within Cinema Studies about the ‘auteur’ hypothesis, authorship, genre, interpretation and New Hollywood’s political economy are briefly considered. The DVD clips used in this essay are only a sample of the possible clips that could be used in the ‘Film Scanning’ process.

Author’s Note

This essay represents an initial ‘primer’ in an ongoing project. Check for in-depth theoretical sections, new DVD clip analyses, and appendices.
Acknowledgments

The methodologies outlined in this essay have evolved, since mid-1997, through many discussions, interviews and seminars.

Geoff Mayer’s virtuoso lectures on genre film (Westerns, Film Noir and Pre-Code) in La Trobe University’s Cinema Studies program were this project’s initial starting point; Felicity Collins and Rolando Caputo provided additional insights into New Hollywood’s political economy.

Dr Ken Wark (Macquarie University), Dr Darren Tofts (Swinburne University) and 21.C publisher Ashley Crawford were involved in a three-year ongoing debate about ‘tech noir’. Michael Keleher, Terry Carty, and Bradford Hanson (Sydney University of Technology) were involved in early discussions throughout 1997 and 1998 about how films portray human values systems. David Cox and Molly Hankwitz (University of Queensland) echoed my research with their ‘DIY’ DVD commentary on Stanley Kubrick’s ‘2001: A Space Odyssey’ (1968) at This Is Not Art 2001.

Dr Don Beck and Chris Cowan (National Values Center, Inc.) gave critical feedback on the Spiral Dynamics® model of human values systems and an initial forty-page ‘chunking’ of film scenes and sequences.

Dr Michael A. Aquino (U.S. Army and Golden Gate University) and Dr Jack Sarfatti (Internet Science Education Project) offered historical insights relevant to the 1982-83 ‘nuclear scare’ film cycle and U.S. theatre nuclear policy.

Douglas Rushkoff, Richard Brodie, Lloyd deMause, Howard Bloom and Aaron Lynch all kindly agreed to 1998 research interviews on memetics and social psychology.

Richard Metzger and Gary Baddeley (Disinformation Company Ltd.) gave me a three-year editorial stint with their counterculture site that enabled Internet-based research and discussions with several contributing editors.

Ken Wilber and Dr Bert Parlee (Integral Institute) enthusiastically supported an ‘integral’-based perspective using the ‘Wilber-4’ model.

Dr Richard Slaughter’s work (Australian Foresight Institute) on critical futures in education and dystopian trigger imagery offered a way out of the perceptual labyrinth.

Several people kindly organised sessions to publicly test Film Scanning in 2002: Chris Cowan, Natasha Todorovic, and Dianne Moore (Spiral Dynamics® I workshops); Dr Joseph Voros and Peter Hayward (AFI’s ‘Integral Futures Frameworks’ postgraduate subject); and Joni Taylor and Kylie Purr (This Is Not Art 2002).

I alone am responsible for the interpretations and opinions expressed here.
Minority Reportage

*Minority Report* was touted as the futurist film of 2002: its ‘above-the-line’ ingredients included a moody director (Steven Spielberg), a controversial star (Tom Cruise), a legendary source (Philip K. Dick), and a team of dedicated futurists who created a compellingly dystopian vision (Kennedy, 2002). The blockbuster’s press coverage soon diverged into different structural layers: ‘stars’, 1to1 marketing and the redesigned Lexus car (pop), and the Department of Pre-crime as metaphor for the perceived attack by U.S. Attorney-General John Ashcroft’s on civil liberties (problem-oriented). *Minority Report*’s coverage also reflected the uncertainty inherent in the post-9/11 world, where Hollywood’s finest minds have been hired by the Pentagon to devise pre-emptive scenarios for the War on Terror (McCarthy, 2002).

Yet reviewers largely overlooked any critical/epistemological issues which the film raised. They mystified *Minority Report*’s critique of harnessing trans-rational foresight for law enforcement purposes. Few reviewers discussed the futurist roots of iconography such as the Dataglove, Pre-crime’s asymmetric threat visualisation system, and the Precogs’ flotation tank facility (Lilly, 1977). This minority reportage was the outcome of the commercial pressures faced by film critics faced. It also reflected how commercial ‘futurology’, in the past, had critiqued film content imagery.

Speculative Films & ‘Futurology’

1970s ‘futurology’ was defined, in the public consciousness, by guru-like exemplars (Hines, 2001), their theories, and film content imagery. Classical Hollywood’s production system had created *Things to Come* (1936) and *Forbidden Planet* (1956), yet speculative films with ‘futurology’ themes became prominent with New Wave science fiction (hence the film genre label), the rise-to-power of the ‘Movie Brats’ generation (Biskind, 1998), and New Hollywood’s innovations in vertically-integrated distribution and multiplex exhibition practices (Wasko, 1994). The mass appeal of this period’s speculative imagery was captured by *The Sci-Fi Files* (Winstar Entertainment, 1997), an American television series on key themes (aliens, artificial life, cities, future environments, robots and spacecraft). Science fiction and speculative imagery partly defined futures discourse (Miles, 1993) and the limits to its powers of ‘hard’ predictability (Phipps, 1999; Calder, 1998—2002).

Problem-oriented futurists appreciated science fiction writings and films as a thematic source for policy-work (Clarke, 1987; Miles, 1990). Genre conventions and literary tropes were content for age-cohort and trends analyses, forecasting, and scenarios (Livingston, 1969; Suedfeld and Ward, 1976; Strick, 1979). One of the most thoughtful analyses was Dennis Livingston’s ‘Science Fiction Survey’ in *Futures* journal (1970—1989). Four notable film cycles have been influenced by problem-oriented and policy-work: responses to the ‘global problematique’ (1969—77), the KGB-SDI ‘nuclear war’ scare (1982—85), ‘tech noir’ films (1979—Present), and post-9/11 ‘pop geopolitics’ (2001—Present). They are briefly summarised in Appendix 3 (Key Film Cycles). Speculative imagery was also regarded as an ‘early warning system’ for looming existential crises and civilizational challenges (Hay, 1973). This elaborated on Frederik Polak’s insight that the growth trajectory of societies was guided by ‘images of the future’ (Polak, 1961; Morgan, 2002).
Critical Futurist Responses to the ‘Imaging Dilemma’

Critical and epistemological futurists had also responded to the dystopian imagery of the first three film cycles and the perceived ‘imaging dilemma’ (Slaughter, 1991; Slaughter, 1995) created by crises like the growing proliferation of nuclear weapons (Slaughter, 1987). Cultural theory, social construction, postmodernist and post-structuralist perspectives had, by the late 1980s, also become popular in cinema studies (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 209).

This interdisciplinary synthesis enabled critical futurists to critique the American empirical tradition’s conceptual limits. A series of articles and books examined the dark side of the Western ‘network society’ (Sardar, 1995), the co-option of futures studies by trans-national conglomerates (Sardar, 1993), multicultural perspectives (Dean, 1999), and inter-generation ur-texts: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) for Generation X (Sardar, 1992) and The Matrix (1999) for the Millennials (Slaughter, 2001). Yet this ‘postmodern turn’ had been derailed in the mid-1990s by free-market challenges to academic norms (Rhoades and Slaughter, 1997; Nelson, 1995) and a series of wars between science and ‘belles lettres’ (Michael, 1996; Carroll, 1988, 32).

Common approaches to fusing film-and-futures echoed traditions in cinema studies. Genre studies (Neale, 2000) enabled futurists to critique social imaging through Westerns (Sardar and Davies, 2002), Science Fiction (Kuhn, 1990; Kuhn, 1999) and Film Noir (Krutnick, 1991; Naremore, 1998; Hirsch, 1999; Silver & Ursini, 1996; Silver & Ursini, 1999). Technology orientations touted the growth of digital filmmaking (Kenyon, 2001; Ohanian & Phillips, 2000; Kindem & Musberger, 1997; Hayward & Wollen, 1993), new media (Manovich, 2001), and the lure of Internet-based research (Deivert, 1995). Yet the dominant approach still focused on canonized texts (Calder, 2002), which still kept most analyses in the pop and problem-oriented domain of futures studies, halting responses to the ‘imaging dilemma’ that shifted from individual to social capacities (Slaughter, 2002).

Perspective I: The Rise and Fall of Epidemiological Memetics

While futurists were fighting the limits of trends-tracking and forecasts, other scholars were facing their own fears about the future of cinema and media studies (Allen, 1985). ‘Contemporary film theory’ in U.S. colleges had been defined by the post-1968 popularity of ‘Althusserian-derived Marxism, Barthesian textual criticism, and . . . Lacanian psychoanalysis’ (Carroll, 1988, 226). The agenda-driven politicising of these perspectives only became more vocal with cultural theory and postmodernism.

Pop memeticists cited ‘the old shoe’ spin-doctoring scene (01:00:32—01:01:54) in *Wag The Dog* (1997) which was recycled by Team Bush in the War on Terror (Fahey, 2002). Oliver Stone’s *JFK* (1991) focused its testimony on the Zaproduer film of U.S. President John F. Kennedy’s assassination (02:36:39—03:08:33), while *Thirteen Days* (2001) chronicled JFK’s speech on the 1962 Cuban missile crisis (00:48:46—00:50:16). *The Blair Witch Project* (1999) opened with a fake verite documentary sequence on social rumors (00:02:45—00:08:49); the filmmakers also harnessed the Internet for a ‘viral marketing’ campaign (Telotte, 2001). Memes also embodied subcultures: *The Filth & The Fury* (1999) featured John Lydon’s sneer “Ever get the feeling you’ve been cheated?” (01:38:30—01:39:00) which signaled the Sex Pistols’ demise.

The battleground between pop and scientific memeticists meant that this new science is still undergoing a Kuhnian revolution. Yet some films, such as Steven Spielberg’s *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1978), offer case-studies in how cultural information propagates. The film’s plot is linked by the discovery of a “basic tonal vocabulary”: a five-tone meme (00:39:23—00:39:27) which is decoded (00:43:20—00:43:29) as a likely extraterrestrial communication that can alter the Earth’s morphogenetic field and pass from person-to-person (00:46:28—00:47:12). Spielberg links the tone to an abduction scene (00:51:34—00:51:41) and passing spacecraft (01:41:30—01:43:29). The closing quarter of the film plays with inter-communication (01:48:13—01:48:50 and 01:52:50—01:56:08) during the final landing. Spielberg and composer John Williams indulged in self-parody with references to the *Jaws* theme (01:55:31—01:56:08) and melodramatic soundtrack flourishes (02:08:14—02:08:31). Perhaps the most poignant scene featuring this meme is the wordless communication between researcher Claude Lacombe and an extraterrestrial (02:06:30—02:07:36).

Epidemiological memetics answered some of the reasons why certain scenes replicated across our ‘ecologies of mind’. The shower sequence (00:44:17—00:47:35) from *Psycho* (1960), which used ‘a formalist strategy of montage editing’ (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 113) and ‘the emotive content of the music’ (Carroll, 1998, 222) to influence our minds. The breathtaking chase sequence (01:07:17—01:14:28) in *The French Connection* (1971) that bended the ‘cop thriller’ genre (Berliner, 2001). Or using Richard Wagner’s ‘Ride of the Valkyries’ as a psychological operations tactic in a gritty helicopter attack (00:35:15—00:43:11), during *Apocalypse Now Redux* (2001), which ends with the speech ‘I love the sound of napalm in the morning’ (00:47:04—00:48:01).

‘Auteur theory’ (actually ‘politique des auteurs’), which migrated from French New Wave polemics to Hollywood via *Village Voice* critic Andrew Sarris (Sarris, 1995; Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 168), exalted the ‘technical competence’ and ‘distinguishable personality’ of the director in service of ‘interior meaning, the ultimate glory of the cinema as an art’ (Abrams, Nathan, Ian Bell, and Jan Udris, 2000, 69). From an epidemiological memetics perspective, the cinema studies traditions of ‘auteur theory’ and critical analyses (Collins, Radner and Collins, 1993, 15; Bordwell, 1988) that drew on theories of Kenneth Burke (‘the social structure of literature’), Claude Levi-Strauss (‘the conceptual structure of tribal myths’) and Vladimir Propp (‘the narrative structure of Russian folktales’), were brave attempts to explain the deep structure of films.
Auteur Homages and Meme Migration

One of cinema’s most affecting sequences is Sergei Eisenstein’s ‘Odessa Steps’ sequence in *The Battleship Potemkin* (1925), which uses montage editing to express ‘the meaning of the events through the choice of shot content and the way he edited the shots together’ (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 113). Notably Eisenstein used geometric patterns, ‘straight-line diagonals’ for the ‘advancing Cossack soldiers’ and ‘curved lines or circles’ for the ‘defenceless women, children, and students’ (Kindem and Musburger, 1997, 275), to control the audience’s gaze. Years later an excerpt from this sequence (00:53:50—00:55:43) turned up as an auteur homage in Brian De Palma’s *The Untouchables* (1987) during a shootout on the railway station’s steps (01:28:43—01:30:47). Both sequences highlighted ‘how time is managed within narratives, how it is manipulated and rearranged in films’ (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 136). Both also relied on the suggestive power of Soviet montage techniques (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 259).


Perspective II: Cognitive Neurobiology

While epidemiological memetics foreshadowed a more scientific approach of film spectatorship and role-identification, it was only part of a larger shift in cinema studies, which occurred with the cognitive viewpoint proposed by David Bordwell, George Currie and Noel Carroll.

Although some were aware of ‘optical switch’ experiments in gestalt and social psychology (Wright, 1975, 197), many cinema studies scholars still focused on psychoanalytic writings on dream states (Carroll, 1988: 13), Freud’s Oedipal Complex, semiotics, and Marxist scholarship (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 215, 217, 219). The cognitivists were critical of this ‘hermetic, inflated, and tautological discourse’, rejecting as dogmatic the Freudian’s unconsciousness, the Semiotician’s film-as-language, the Modernist’s reflexivity and the Postmodernist’s narrative (Stam, 2000, 236). Earlier responses including Chatman’s model of ‘sender’ and ‘receiver’ (Stam, Burgoyne and Flitterman-Lewis, 1992, 113) and Cavelti’s analysis of how character traits and genre ‘story patterns’ became stereotypes (Neale, 2000, 209) had tried to resolve these conceptual paradoxes.

Carroll observed that ‘film viewing is a natural pretext for sociability’ and that ‘to evaluate, one categorizes’ (Carroll, 2000, 265, 267). Classical film theorists erred, Carroll argued, because of a ‘hypostatization of certain period-specific film styles’ (Carroll, 2000, 272) that mistook surface imagery for deep metapatterns. They
mistook film’s ability ‘to exploit generic, recognizable abilities’ as genuine psychological effects (Carroll, 1988, 144). Movies appealed ‘to our cognitive faculties by virtue of their forms’ and answered spectator’s questions by ‘making relevant details salient’ (Carroll, 1988, 211).

Film viewer-ship and the spectator’s sense of unified identity become intertwined as ‘gaps and absences’ are sutured (Carroll, 1998, 185). Spectators internalised the narrative film’s ‘whole structure’ and ‘alternative outcomes to various lines of action’—which occurred by ‘tacitly projecting the range of outcomes as subconscious expectations which we can represent as questions’ (Carroll, 1988, 173). Further research on audience responses found they used ‘as-if emotions’ (Gerrig & Prentice, 2000, 397), as a way to predict particular outcomes, such as Alfred Hitchcock’s famous anecdote about a hidden bomb under a table (Truffaut, 1984, 73).

Thus the cognitivist school viewed spectator-ship as an artificial environment that intertwined the neurobiological systems involved in foresight with existential problems in a simulated world (the film being viewed). The mind’s foresight capacity is portrayed in Peter Jackson’s Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (02:12:14—02:17:29). Just as the shift from ‘futurology’ to foresight gave a new perspective, the cognitivist school’s findings helped inaugurate a shift from futures-oriented films to a broader appreciation of film and foresight’s inter-relationship. Instead of focusing on surface content imagery this appreciation arises from knowledge of the dynamic human values which interlock neurobiological systems and the foresight cycle (Jantsch, 1975; Judge, 1993).

**Perspective III: Human Values Systems**

Cognitivist scholars who surveyed cinema studies literature often found few references to current perception research. ‘Over the next several years we slowly came to understand that we needed a metatheory’ (Anderson & Anderson, 2000, 349). Yet Carroll and others were wary of the ‘totalizing’ or ‘top down’ approach ‘where contemporary film theory presents itself as The Theory of Film’ (Carroll, 1988, 8). Rather he advocated ‘piecemeal theorizing’ or ‘theories about film’ which might ‘be organisable into larger, systematic and theoretical constellations’ (Carroll, 1998, 232).

One such dynamic model of human values systems, which encompassed insights from epidemiological memetics and the cognitivist approach to cinema studies, was developed by Union College professor of psychology Clare W. Graves from the mid-1950s until his death in 1986. It has subsequently become commercially available, through the work of Graves’ students Dr. Don Edward Beck and Christopher C. Cowan, as the Spiral Dynamics® model (Beck & Cowan, 1996). Other perspectives on the Gravesian system (Wade, 1996; Wilber, 1999, Wilber, 2000) have also recently become available.

Graves’ research into what he called the ‘emergent cyclical double helix model of mature adult biopsychosocial systems intelligences’ found eight complex adaptive systems of human values (which Beck and Cowan termed VMemes or ‘values-attracting meta-memes’). These are summarised in Appendix 1 (The Eight VMeme Codes/Systems), and in many studies (Beck & Cowan, 1996; Wilber, 1999, 480-484; Wilber, 2000, 19-16; Burns, 2001). It is not my purpose here to revisit this territory.
Beyond its proprietary assessment instruments, one overlooked aspect of Graves’ model was its exploration using action research and ethnographic interviews of lifespan development. These are presented as a series of psychohistorical ‘snapshots’ (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 34-39). A comparable film series is Michael Apted’s 7Up (1964) to 42Up (1998). In-depth analyses of film scenes and sequences using the Spiral Dynamics® methodology is given in the Field Guide section and this continues to evolve. An outline of the Film Scanning method is given in Appendix 2 (‘Film Scanning’ Knowledge Cycle). These interpretations are probabilistic filters of the filmmakers’ final product, not direct analyses of objective reality (even in non-fiction films).

Spiral Dynamics® certification offers several exercises, including viewing the film Pleasantville (1998), and an ethnographic meme hunt using disposable cameras and self-reporting descriptions, that offer learning experiences in an ‘action research’ context. The ‘Film Scanning’ process builds on this approach, adding insights from cinema and new media studies, and critical/depth futures tools.

Several common learning problems have been noted within the Spiral Dynamics community: ‘nominalizing’ Spiral colours as character styles/personality types, instead of as a fallible description of emerging human values; a quasi-religious focus on Second Tier systems as god-like, at the expense of the Spiral, appropriate Life Conditions, and overall context; the clashing ‘two cultures’ of academic researchers and business consultants; unawareness of subjective filters, mental models, and lifespan experiences; and an unfamiliarity with the history of key terms which transforms discourse into sloganeering. Resolving these problems is part of an ongoing debate. There is growing recognition that Gravesian systems need to migrate from two-dimensional paper representations to a four-dimensional information visualization system. Recent proposals on environmental scanning and notation (Voros, 2001), the Film Scanning process, and other initiatives are a step towards this goal.

**New Media Learning Pedagogy: ‘DIY’ DVD Commentaries**

Technological innovations in DVD commentaries, MP3 audio software and Open Source distribution platforms have created a viable new learning pedagogy in new media. Roger Ebert’s Yahoo! Internet Life column (Ebert, 2002) on the possibility of creating a ‘DIY’ DVD commentary sparked Patrick Stein to develop DVD Tracks (Stein, 2002), a site devoted to housing these commentaries in MP3 audio format. These initiatives have attracted interest from online publications (Yarm, 2002) and commercial software developers (Wiml, 2001).

Cinema studies courses have a long tradition of mise-en-scène analysis (Welsch, 1997, 102-103). Common introductory essays ask students to identify films that have personally resonated with them and the historical reasons why, and to track three films over discontinuous time periods and their viewer’s experiences (Bates, 2000, 84).
Unlike commentaries in live seminars (Burns, ‘Integral Futures & Film Scanning’, 2002) the recording process enables re-recording and precision. If undertaken with appropriate support levels (after cost-benefit analysis), and within the context of a knowledge management system, these commentaries also help to create an institutional memory.

Critical and depth futures perspectives are integral to this new pedagogy. Richard Slaughter noted the prevalence of ‘violence in youth media’ (Slaughter, 1995, 119; Slaughter, 1999, 58) and ‘the proliferation of negative futures imagery’ (Slaughter, 1995, 88) within Generation X and the Millennials. Critical and depth futures perspectives provided a ‘critique of futures images’ (Slaughter, 1999, 60-61), a way to ‘deal with fears’ (Slaughter, 1999, 64-65) and a way to ‘renegotiate worldview meanings and assumptions’ (Slaughter, 1999, 65-66). The new media component of this pedagogy is designed simply to be a delivery system, not the pedagogy’s core focus. Alternate depth perspectives, notably Sohail Inayatullah’s Causal Layered Analysis (Inayatullah, 2001; Ramos, 2002) and the ‘Wilber-4’ model (Wilber, 1999; Wilber, 2000) should also be utilized.

The proposed combination of ‘DIY’ DVD commentaries, informed by depth approaches to critical futures, and deliverable on the MP3 format, enables the real-time and global propagation of foresight perspectives to a world that remains engaged in a desperate search for new solutions.
Problems of Existence

Clare W. Graves’ dynamic biopsychosocial systems became activated in response to Problems of Existence that faced individuals, groups and entire societies (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 29). Although older systems remained online, these crises prompted the adaptive search to cope with new conditions. They awaken Mind Capacities and Multiple Intelligences within. The discovery of 32 Soviet surface-to-air missiles in Cuba by a U2 overflight (00:12:41—00:16:30) began the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis in Thirteen Days. Clashes between different morals provoke a bitter argument (00:45:57—00:48:44) in Spy Game (2001). The loss of a forest map in The Blair Witch Project (00:36:44—00:40:01) triggers group in-fighting. Run, Lola, Run (1999) opens with a sequence (00:01:57—00:03:13) that describes how existential crises simultaneously define our identity and are a process of questioning. Run, Lola, Run then quickly establishes its plot through a series of escalating mistakes (00:06:43—00:10:36) involving Mani, his girlfriend Lola, the gangster Ronnie, a lost money-bag, plans to rob a department store, and a 20-minute deadline. Just as Graves anticipated, the characters’ individual solutions awaken different values systems. Problems of Existence also provide ‘plot points’ in structuralist models of screen-writing (Field, 1995).

Life Conditions

VMemes form in response to Mind Capacities within and Life Conditions (LCs), the historic times, geographic places, existential problems, and social circumstances (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 52-55). ‘This interface of existence conditions-without (from nature and human activity) and latent capacities-within is what Graves called the ‘double helix aspect of his theory’ (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 52).

LCs are usually depicted to establish settings and provide character back-stories. They are ‘scanned’ in scene establishing shots. LCs in films based on historical events often convey the narrative approach of the director and screenwriter. Apollo 13 (1995) opens with a montage (00:00:45—00:1:51) about the U.S. space program and geopolitical pressures. JFK (1991) also opens with a lengthy ‘historic montage’ (00:00:00—00:07:04) on the Kennedy, Johnson and the Vietnam War, and later segues into a dialogue by Mr. X (01:45:20—02:02:11), based on the ‘power critique’ of the late Colonel Fletcher Prouty. Casino (1995) establishes the grim reality about Las Vegas (00:04:56—00:07:53). The dual narration by Rothstein (Robert De Niro) and Nicky (Joe Pesce) reveals their different worldviews. The Filth & The Fury (1999) opens with a startling montage (00:01:19—00:04:43) about 1976 England; The Clash: Westway to the World (2000) offers an alternate perspective on the same period (00:01:32—00:03:13). The latter documentary also highlights how The Clash were inspired by their daily existential problems (00:15:15—00:15:54), such as being ‘bored with the U.S.A.’ (00:13:33—00:14:46). The shift in textual interpretations such as Shakespeare (Boose, 1997; Brillstein, 1999; Buhler, 2002) may reflect different LCs.
An overlooked Spiral Dynamics® tool is the **OPEN—ARRESTED—CLOSED** continuum (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 76-82), based on Milton Rokeach’s book *The Open and Closed Mind* (Basic Books, New York, 1960). Checking for OAC status involves scanning for **OPEN** (‘potential for more complex level functioning’), **ARRESTED** (‘caught by barriers in self/situation’) and **CLOSED** (‘blocked by biopsychosocial capacities’) during a situation intervention (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 77). OAC status may be unmasked during psychologically stressful events, such as Heather’s on-camera confessions in *The Blair Witch Project*: ‘I’m going to die out here’ (01:07:07—01:09:13).

*Falling Down* (1992) provides examples of **OPEN**, **ARRESTED** and **CLOSED** states in its triumvirate of William Foster/D-Fens, police officer Prendergrast and Surplus Store owner who is a Holocaust Revisionist. During a confrontation with D-Fens, the Surplus Store owner regresses to **CLOSED** psychological blindness and ideological rigidity (00:58:21—01:03:43). D-Fens has **ARRESTED** passive-aggressive behavior (00:39:37—00:43:54) during an argument with Whammy Burger manager Rick (whose management style is too blue/orange). During the final confrontation between D-Fens and Prendergrast, the police officer remains calm under pressure, follows the ‘rules of engagement’, adjusts to a new **Problem of Existence**, and offers D-Fens alternate possibilities (01:38:33—01:42:13), signs of **OPEN** state thinking.

**Five Steps in the Pathway of ^Meme Change**

Initiatory (Vogler, 1998) and character-driven (Horton, 1996) scriptwriting paradigms have explored structures for dynamic change in contemporary films. The Spiral Dynamics® method for tracking ^Meme change (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 85-92) offers a dialectical method useful for Film Scanning. Graves noted shifts from **ALPHA** equilibrium, to **BETA** questioning, to **GAMMA Trap** dystopian imagery and hopelessness if the Reform Option is unachievable, to the **DELTA** surge of new possibilities/utopian ideals and a **New ALPHA** equilibrium. This dialectic echoes Hegelian narrative approaches (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 133) and Tzvetan Todorov’s three-stage equilibrium-disruption-new equilibrium pattern (Abrams, Nathan, & Bell, 2000, 136-137). Pop futurists combine a half-step from the current **ALPHA** with some **BETA** questions and the utopian appeal of the **DELTA** surge; problem-oriented futurists focus on **BETA** and the search for a Reform Option to **GAMMA Trap** crises; while critical futurists cycle between **BETA**, the Reform Option and opening up conceptual space for a **DELTA** surge to **New ALPHA** (always revealed by the critical theories being used).

The Nine Inch Nails concert film *And All That Could Have Been* (2001) features this five-stage cycle in a three-song sequence designed by Trent Reznor and video artist Bill Viola to ‘pace-and-lead’ the audience midway through the industrial band’s performance. The concert segues from the **DELTA** surge of ‘Gave Up’ (00:30:00—00:31:14), where claustrophobic lighting effects obscure the release of three large video display screens, into a moment of silence. The jazz-influenced drum, bass and piano syncopated introduction to ‘La Mer’ (00:31:19—00:32:22) signals the beginning of Reznor and Viola’s sequence, the **New ALPHA**, and evolves towards...
the closing image of the ‘feminine daemonique’ (00:33:36—00:36:00). BETA lyrics and sea imagery signals a shift to ‘The Great Below’ (00:37:01—00:37:48). The Reform Option is briefly considered (00:38:43—00:39:22) before plunging into the GAMMA Trap of ‘The Mark Has Been Made’, where guitar power chords underpin BEIGE fire and water imagery (00:42:19—00:43:52). Finally the sequence ends by segueing into ‘Wish’ (00:44:20—00:45:42) and back to DELTA. Nine Inch Nails’ music, like most heavy metal and dystopian imagery, captures the viewer by BETA hooks spends much of its time in GAMMA Trap/DELTA oscillations, but never achieves the New ALPHA closure.

**BEIGE: The Instinctive V Meme (Survival/Sense)**


**PURPLE: The Clannish V Meme (Kin Spirits)**

The PURPLE system underpins cartoon, fantasy, and science fiction content imagery. Past cinema studies approaches have defined PURPLE myths as ‘universal, biological, and therefore static’ (Collins, Radner and Collins, 1993, 8), a view not shared by Spiral Dynamics® practitioners.

In this alternate universe, the usual rules don’t apply: *Chicken Run* (2000) features a humorous debate about the BLUE—ORANGE strategic planning skills of chickens (00:13:05—00:14:25). Ginger’s story of a New ALPHA paradise provokes a CLOSED—BETA response (00:15:57—00:17:23) from other chickens who cannot perceive new options.
A flashback about the **PURPLE—RED** persona of villain Keyser Soze (00:56:38—00:59:39) provides a **PURPLE** turning point in *The Usual Suspects* (1995). A hallucinatory Navaho Indian ritual (00:38:41—00:44:00) in *Natural Born Killers* (1994) evokes the shamanic power of tribal Elders and the spirit world (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 208-211). This **PURPLE** thread also features in *Apocalypse Now Redux*, when the editing cuts between Captain Willard terminating Kurtz ‘with extreme prejudice’ and the ritual sacrifice of a buffalo, as The Doors’ *The End* plays on the soundtrack (02:58:29—03:02:21). Bands from Pink Floyd and Jefferson Airplane to Depeche Mode and U2 have incorporated **PURPLE** imagery and aesthetics into their live stage design.

### RED: The Egocentric V Meme (*PowerGods*)

*Spiral Dynamics®* practitioners have noted that few healthy (‘for-better’) portrayals of the **RED** values system exist in contemporary culture, and Hollywood films only reinforce this deficit in social imaging.

Perhaps the most resonating scene the opening confrontation in *Dirty Harry* (1971) when Clint Eastwood snarls: ‘Do you feel lucky, punk?’ (00:12:54—00:14:11). This line became a sound-bite which overlooked how the Dirty Harry character evolved from the first film until *The Dead Pool* (1988). Detective Jimmy ‘Popeye’ Doyle’s question ‘Did you ever pick your feet in Poughkeepsie?’ (00:04:42—00:07:05) highlights the strategic **BLUE—ORANGE** ruse of a ‘tough’ **RED** persona in *The French Connection* (1971). *60 Minutes* journalist Lowell Bergman intervenes, using a **RED** persona (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 216-217), in a pre-interview debate about **BEIGE** proxemics and **RED/blue** cultural differences, at the beginning of *The Insider* (1999). Most film portrayals are either of **RED** outlaws to **BLUE—ORANGE** society or strategic masks.

### BLUE: The Purposeful V Meme (*TruthForce*)

**BLUE** values systems amplify the Traditional perspective of Manichean dualism, regimented order, rightful authority and hard work. This system resonates with themes in Alfred Hitchcock’s films, the Pre-Code era and melodramatic film conventions. The oscillating swing from individual/elite to a collective/communal focus means that group dynamics become crucial. Two notorious examples are the **PURPLE—BLUE** group hypnosis of Leni Riefenstahl’s *Triumph of the Will* (1934) and Philip Zimbardo and Ken Musen’s documentary *Quiet Rage: The Stanford Prison Study* (1992). The **BLUE** world, as Mickey explains during the Superbowl television interview in *Natural Born Killers* (01:12:25—01:17:31), is ruled by Fate.

Despite its avowed individualism, contemporary culture remains influenced and supported by **BLUE** social structures. In the past, these structures and norms included the duel for personal honor (00:52:47—01:00:21) in *Onegin* (2000). The Paris Island sequence of *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) highlights why the U.S. Army needs regimented order for combat situations (00:07:14—00:09:34). The Chosen in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* attend a final church service before departing (02:04:02—02:04:44). The Traditionalist focus of city libraries and knowledge of literary classics and moral tales (00:24:07—00:28:14) proves necessary to tracking the serial killer in *Se7en* (1997).
Yet BLUE systems can have their gnawing limits, too. In *The Clash: Westway to the World*, the band members note the failure of traditional authority (00:04:35—00:05:28) yet adopt hard-line tactics to maintain group-cohesion (00:14:46—00:15:14). Choices are simple: as Andy Dufresne explains to “Red” Redding in *The Shawshank Redemption*, ‘It comes down to a simple choice: get busy living, or get busy dying’ (01:36:17—01:42:45).

**ORANGE: The Strategic VMeme (**StriveDrive**)**

ORANGE values systems have brightened with the growth of neo-liberal economics and globalization. Hence ORANGE advertising and distribution dominates the global media (Nichols, 1994). The increasing collusion of news editorial and legal departments is examined in an *Insider* scene (01:36:25—01:39:56) about the mergers and acquisitions risk of ‘torturous interference’. Gordon Gecko’s ‘Greed is Good’ speech (01:12:11—01:15:44) imprinted many viewers with the suggestion that financial speculation was an ORANGE strategic remanifestation of PURLE—BLUE Manifest Destiny. In this speech Gecko set-up a dichotomy between BLUE—ORANGE stereotypes and the ORANGE/red individual investor.

Gecko’s real philosophy, and Oliver Stone’s critique of rampant Corporatism, is revealed in a later scene (01:30:40—01:34:24) when Budd confronts him with arguments centered on BLUE icons (family, company, tradition), and Gecko ends the conversation with a RED/blue gambit. Gecko’s ORANGE/green perspective on the construction of social reality is mirrored by the popularity of strategic thinking and scenarios in pragmatic futures. The EXCOM team in *Thirteen Days* deploys ORANGE multiplistic option-generation (00:25:18—00:26:41) when it shifts from a pre-emptive strike (‘there is more than one option here’) to other scenarios (‘the scenario calls for a blockade of Cuba’). Later the EXCOM team uses orange/GREEN ‘tit-for-tat’ insights from game theory (‘what if this is a series of accidents?’) to defuse the international crisis (01:55:48—01:56:55).

Many ORANGE depictions focus on empirical technology and intelligence augmentation, such as the National Security Agency’s intelligence-gathering and data-mining system (00:31:29—00:33:54) in *Enemy of the State* (1997). Political spin-doctors in *Primary Colors* (1998) use ORANGE image management techniques (00:59:51—01:03:18) in a sequence based by Newsweek journalist Joe Klein on Genevieve Flower’s allegations about former U.S. President Bill Clinton. This technological thread is exemplified by the *Enemy of the State* credit sequence, a montage of surveillance video and ‘reality TV’ images (00:04:15—00:06:04), and the *Spy Game* credit sequence (00:08:00—00:08:13), which ends with a hyper-fast zoom in on the Central Intelligence Agency’s headquarters in Langley, Virginia (00:09:42—00:09:48). Years later, programmer Jim Doyle will wreak revenge on Centrabank icon Simon O’Reilly (a Gecko copy) in *The Bank* (2000) by engineering a calamitous equities trade (01:22:23—01:30:14).
Peak ORANGE is portrayed in the documentary Startup.com (2000). The dotcom entrepreneurs battle over a name during a concept pitch session (00:09:02—00:10:07) and ‘the vision thing’ (00:16:19—00:17:59). They face rejections from the venture capital firms Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers (00:12:10—00:13:24) and General Atlantic Partners (00:13:42—00:14:59), before almost closing an investment round, sans legal counsel and laptop, with Hyland Capital Partners (00:22:23—00:27:13). This unapologetic ORANGE business culture is reflected in Hollywood script markets (Taylor, 1999), industry ‘tell-all’ biographies (Vachon, 1998; Linson, 2002) and the doyens of the ‘high concept’ film: Don Simpson (Fleming, 1996), Jon Peters and Peter Guber (Griffin & Masters, 1996) and David Geffen (King, 2000).

Yet upsurges against ORANGE systems are appearing on the horizon. Some of these can be traced to ‘late capitalism’ critiques in films like Alien (1979), where the Nostromo’s doomed crew unmask The Company’s true mission, discuss how to kill the Alien, and compare different values systems (01:20:45 – 01:24:00). The most emotionally searing scene in The Filth & The Fury comes when John Lydon speaks out about the commercialism surrounding Syd Vicious’s murder-suicide (01:35:00—01:36:28). The ORANGE solution is co-option of surface imagery: Fight Club (1999) warns on the one hand about ‘Planet Starbucks’ and how corporations will ‘colonize the future’ (00:03:41—00:05:24), yet its protagonist is not immune to the ‘IKEA nesting instinct’ and white-collar blues (Giroux, 2002, 259, 263).

An ambiguous example of ORANGE values systems is Morpheus’ ‘Blue or Red Pill’ proposal to Neo in The Matrix (00:24:42—00:31:43). To appreciate this ambiguity, consider that audiences have different responses (Abrams, Bell & Nathan, 2000, 248, 276): dominant readings (accepting the preferred reading), negotiated readings (agreeing with dominant values but disagreeing with specific points), oppositional readings (where dominant values are disavowed) and aberrant readings (when unusual values are ‘decoded’). Most viewers took the dominant reading of an initiatory ordeal, negotiated readings noted the PURLPE horror conventions during Morpheus’ interview of Neo, and aberrant readings focused on the LSD-like imagery during ‘waking up’ as a sign of dual psychosis. Yet an oppositional reading is ultimately the most disturbing. Morpheus and his colleagues find a highly suggestible human (Neo). During the interview Morpheus uses Neuro-Lingustic Programming and Ericksonian hypnosis techniques to persuade Neo of his convictions. Having undergone a ‘conversion experience’ Neo now continues with Morpheus’ mission to embody ‘The One’. Sometimes your ‘own right mind’ is really another’s text.

GREEN: The Relativistic Meme (HumanBond)

Over the past few years the GREEN Meme has been the most controversial Gravesian values system within sections of the Spiral Dynamics® community. Its relativistic mode of thinking has underpinned the ‘postmodernist turn’, which, in the author’s opinion, is probably more accurately described as a CLOSED BLUE—GREEN response to CLOSED ORANGE/green attempts to ‘upshift’ to the Second Tier. This fallout is mirrored in a Startup.com scene when the mother of ‘fired’ govWorks.com cofounder Tom Herman says, ‘Caring for people and how they feel—is not part of this new world’ (01:31:23 – 01:33:00).
The epistemological revelations in *The Matrix* provide a glimpse of Second Tier gnosis amidst the social constructionist critique of artificial intelligence (00:38:19—00:42:43). Yet the reasons given for this future dystopia fall apart under lengthy analysis (Slaughter, 2001). Perhaps answering critics who judged *Videodrome* (1983) as an orange/GREEN synthesis of Marshall McLuhan’s media and Jean Baudrillard’s simulacra (Bukatman, 1990, 196-213), David Cronenberg ends *eXistenZ* (1999) with a jarring question about what happens when game violence and immersive environments overlay the subjective universe (01:21:40—01:22:28). This scene viscerally illustrates the dangers of extreme post-conventional relativism (Wilber, *Theory of Everything*, 2000, 27), and its nested Chinese boxes (01:21:40—01:30:01), without the need for confusing ‘Mean Green Meme’ jargon.

Video game logic also forms the multi-strand narrative structure (Thompson, 1999; Cowgill, 1999) of *Run, Lola, Run*, one of the most interesting depictions of GREEN relativistic structures, which the film explores through slight variations of repetitious scenes. These branching points represent ‘alternative futures’ (Bordwell & Thompson, 2001, 67, 91) as flashbulb-like memory fragments. Lola bumps into a pedestrian, who responds with ‘stupid slut’ (00:12:47—00:13:06); ‘fucking bitch’ (00:35:10—00:35:10); and enigmatic silence (00:53:53—00:54:04). Later in her trip, Lola is approached by a bicyclist who asks ‘Could you use a bike?’ (00:15:17—00:15:44); reveals in another story trajectory that the bike is ‘stolen’ (00:36:15—00:36:35); and in a third possibility, sells the stolen bike to the street tramp who stole Mani’s money-bag (00:54:53—00:55:47). When Lola arrives at her father’s bank, she first bumps into Ms Jager (00:18:40—00:18:50); is under surveillance in the corridor (00:38:14—00:38:20), confronted (00:40:30—00:40:45), and counteracts by holding her father hostage (00:42:33—00:42:39); and in the final sequence Ms Jager is passed by Lola’s father (00:57:25—0057:34). Each story trajectory in *Run, Lola, Run* captures how the GREEN system discovers the uncertainty inherent in everyday choices (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 270).

The ORANGE appropriation of GREEN perspectives and PURPLE iconography is evident in Baz Luhrman’s *Moulin Rouge!* (2001), whose melodramatic storyline is dominated by a series of loosely connected orange/GREEN music videos. Opening with the *Sound of Music* (1965) theme, Luhrman proceeds to sample Nirvana’s *Smells Like Teen Spirit* (00:11:32—00:13:40); Marilyn Monroe’s *Diamonds Are A Girl’s Best Friend* routine (00:13:40—00:18:10), via Madonna’s *Material Girl* (00:15:42—00:15:52); David Bowie’s *Diamond Dogs* (00:23:03—00:23:43); Elton John’s *Your Song* (00:26:31—00:30:04), Madonna’s *Like A Virgin* (00:59:31—01:03:01) and The Police’s *Roxanne* (01:14:58—01:18:29). While some of these interpretations are audacious, they also illustrate the difficulties in finding ‘pure’ GREEN imagery.

**Moral Crises: Depicting The Gravesian ‘Great Leap’**

Clare W. Graves contended that humans often faced a ‘great leap’—a life-changing experience, moral crisis or direct confrontation with a global crisis—before Second Tier systems came online within the human brain (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 274). Many speculative and futures-oriented films have focused on these crises, such as the Cold War spectre of Mutually Assured Destruction in the title sequence (00:00:23—00:02:06) for *Thirteen Days*. Copyright © 2002 Alex Burns. For individual private educational & non-commercial use only. All other rights reserved.
Film characters may not necessarily awaken Second Tier systems, but some kinds of moral crises that might bring these systems online. The Cassandra Complex (‘I want the future to be unknown’) and breakdown of consensus reality (01:32:29—01:34:46) in 12 Monkeys captures the jarring and instantaneous ‘change in worldviews’ that a personal confrontation with the ‘global problematique’ often brings. Rutger Hauer’s improvised ‘Time to Die’ speech (01:41:57 – 01:43:05) in Blade Runner (1981) reflects Erik Erikson’s research on psychological crises in lifespan development. The painful ‘firing’ sequence (01:15:29—01:27:37) in Startup.com is a real-world example that may prompt psychological evolution to greater complexity or regression to ‘safer’ environs (Beck & Cowan, 1996, 61-63). Finally, although it was a Problem of Existence for the crew of Apollo 13 (1995), the technical malfunction (00:47:48—00:50:14) also forced National Aeronautics & Space Administration staff to use systems thinking and crisis response mechanisms to bring the astronauts back safely.

Searching For The Elusive Second Tier

While depictions of Second Tier Problem of Existences have existed in speculative and futures-oriented films since the early 1970s, realistic depictions of Second Tier responses to these crises have been fleeting. Baraka (1992) highlights the anthropology of different human cultures and interconnected milieux. Earthlight (1998) documents how astronauts perceive the Earth as an integrated system from outer space, yet features a GREEN ‘sensitive’ New Age soundtrack.

Depictions of Second Tier consciousness, perhaps because of the co-evolution of the ‘Movie Brats’ and the Age of Aquarius, has been dominated by psychedelic and science fiction imagery. The Stargate trip (01:56:58—02:06:07) and Star Child imagery (02:13:14—02:14:42) in 2001: A Space Odyssey was, thanks to Douglas Trumbull’s effects and Arthur C. Clarke’s eschatology, one of the first depictions that resonated with a mass audience. The enigmatic answer to ‘life, the universe, and everything’ (00:13:18—00:17:50) in The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy (1981) parodied the post-de Chardin/2001 tradition of representing the Hegelian Overmind with oblique religious imagery. A.I.: Artificial Intelligence offered the ultimate deus ex machina to dystopian imagery: rescue of the fragile individual by a future civilization (01:50:57 – 01:53:36).
## Appendix 1: The Eight \(^8\)Meme Codes/System.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Color Code</th>
<th>Popular Thinking Name</th>
<th>Cultural Manifestations System &amp; Personal Displays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Turquoise (HU)</td>
<td>Wholeview</td>
<td>Holistic ecological thinking; holistic structures; collective individualism; planetary spirituality; communitarian sense; minimalist living; macro-view perspective; whole-Spiral networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yellow (GT)</td>
<td>FlexFlow</td>
<td>Ecological integrative and open natural systems; self-principle; multiple realities; experiential never at knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Green (FS)</td>
<td>HumanBond</td>
<td>Consensus community structures; consensus-driven leadership; egalitarian feelings; authenticity; sharing; caring; liberate from greed &amp; dogma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Orange (ER)</td>
<td>StriveDrive</td>
<td>Strategic enterprise structures, success-driven leadership; materialism; consumerism; image/status; personal growth; search out best solutions; tried-and-true experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Blue (DQ)</td>
<td>TruthForce</td>
<td>Authority moral compasses; authoritarian structures; meaning; discipline; traditions; rules; chain-of-command; lives for later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Red (CP)</td>
<td>PowerGods</td>
<td>Egocentric egocentric personalities; empire structures; power-centered leadership; immediate gratification; conquest; action; impulsive; fights remorselessly to break constraints; glitz; lives for now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Purple (BO)</td>
<td>KinSpirits</td>
<td>Animistic animistic beliefs, tribal orders, harmony, rituals; taboos superstitions; tribes; folk ways &amp; elders lore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beige (AN)</td>
<td>SurvivalSense</td>
<td>Instinctive survival senses and deep brain systems; undifferentiated self-sense; food; water; procreation warmth; protection; stays alive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: ‘Film Scanning’ Knowledge Cycle.

- A critical method of media synthesis.
- A lens/tool for simulating the nested values systems within people.
- A way to open up greater conceptual space and discuss new strategic options.
- A way to challenge mental models, subjective filters, and organizational memory.
- A way to ‘chunk’ critical/depth perspectives in a Knowledge Management system.

1. Situation Analysis.

- What is your current situation? (Opportunities—Threats brief).
- What are your strategic goals? (Strategic Anticipation/Foresight capabilities).
- What is your time-limit?
- Decide what to analyse.
- Decide which clips and films to utilise.
- Step outside your mental models, subjective filters, and organizational memory.

2. ‘Film Scanning’.

- Watch the clips (usually several times).
- Note key scene and sequence times.
- Note any relevant mise-en-scene elements.
- Remain self-aware and ‘awake’ during viewing process.
- Use several different critical perspectives during viewing process.
- Be aware of General Semantics errors (‘to be’, ‘is’) that mis-map territory.
- Use depth perspectives (SD, CLA) and notation during viewing process.
- Where are the gaps? What strategic information is missing? (Milton Model).
- Transfer notes to Information Visualization/Knowledge Management system.

3. Analysis and Synthesis.

- Study any included supplementary material (notably production commentaries).
- Research film production, interviews, and political economy (context).
- If fiction: Source text? Adaptation issues?
- If non-fiction: Source events? Press coverage? Adaptation issues?
- Map film structure (contours and discontinuities) using script and scenario models.
- Chunk key information (Pareto’s 80/20 rule) from critical and depth perspectives.
- Connect film ideas to Situation Analysis.
- Reframe options from Opportunities-Threats brief and Strategic Anticipation brief.

4. Dissemination.

- Assemble seminar notes and report summary.
- Discuss with relevant ‘community of practice’.
- Review critical feedback and update summary ‘on-the-fly’ if needed.
- Disseminate via ‘DIY’ DVD commentaries and PowerPoint presentation if possible.
- Repeat ‘Film Scanning’ cycle if necessary.
Appendix 3: Key Film Cycles.

The time-period of these cycles was correlated with key theories and ‘stimulus events’. Imagery and thematic content has continued to influence the cultural memepool. The films cited are only as an introductory guide. Films marked with an asterisk (*) had a theatrical re-release during the cycle’s estimated time-period.


• Rolling Stones’ Altamont concert (1969).
• The Club of Rome’s Limits to Growth (1972).
• OPEC oil crisis (1973).

Silent Running (1971).
The Andromeda Strain (1971).
Doomwatch (1972).
Soylent Green (1973).
The Final Programme (1973).
Westworld (1973).
A Boy and His Dog (1975).
The Man Who Fell To Earth (1975).
Futureworld (1976).
Logan’s Run (1976).
The Last Wave (1977).


• Nuclear Utilization Theory.
• Central Intelligence Agency’s Operation RYAN (1982-83).
• The ‘Nuclear Winter’ meme (1984—Present).

The War Game* (1965).
The Day After (1983).
WarGames (1983).
Threads (1985).
Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome (1985).
Tech Noir (1979—Present).

- Critiques of ‘Late Capitalism’.
- Growth of Biotechnology and Nanotechnology industries.
- Postmodernist, Post-structuralist and Critical Realist discourses.
- John Shirley’s *A Song Called Youth* trilogy (1999).

*Blake’s 7* (1979—1982).
*Blade Runner* (1982).


- U.S. Bush Administration’s ‘regime change’ plans for Iraq (2002).
- Samuel P. Huntington’s *Clash of Civilizations* (1993).

*Deterrence* (1999).
*Spy Game* (2001).
*Collateral Damage* (2002).
*The Sum of All Fears* (2002).
Select Bibliography


Burns, A. *The Book of Oblique Strategies*.


Chazov, Y. ‘Reason Versus Nuclear Illusions’, International Affairs (Moscow), October 1983, 78-82.


deMause, L. ‘The Real Target Wasn’t Terrorism’, *Journal of Psychohistory*, vol. 13, no. 4, Spring 1986, 413-426.


Israelyan, V. ‘Two Approaches to the Disarmament Problem’, *International Affairs* (Moscow), September 1983, 52-60.


Jantsch, J. ‘The Quest for Absolute Values’, *Futures*, vol. 7, no. 6, December 1975, 463-474.


Ovinnikov, R. ‘Crusade To The Brink Of Nuclear War’, *International Affairs* (Moscow), June 1983, 92-98.


Restivo, A. ‘Using Feature Film Clips To Illustrate Film Aesthetics.’ *Cinema Journal*, vol. 34, no. 3, Spring 1995, 80-83.


Sarris, A. ‘Notes Of An Accidental Auteurist’, *Film History*, vol. 7., no. 4, 1995, 358-361.


Shashkov, Y. ‘Space Shield: Myths and Realities’, *International Affairs* (Moscow), March 1987, 22-29.


Strick, P. ‘The Shape of Monsters to Come’, *Futures*, vol. 11, no. 4, August 1979, 342-343.


