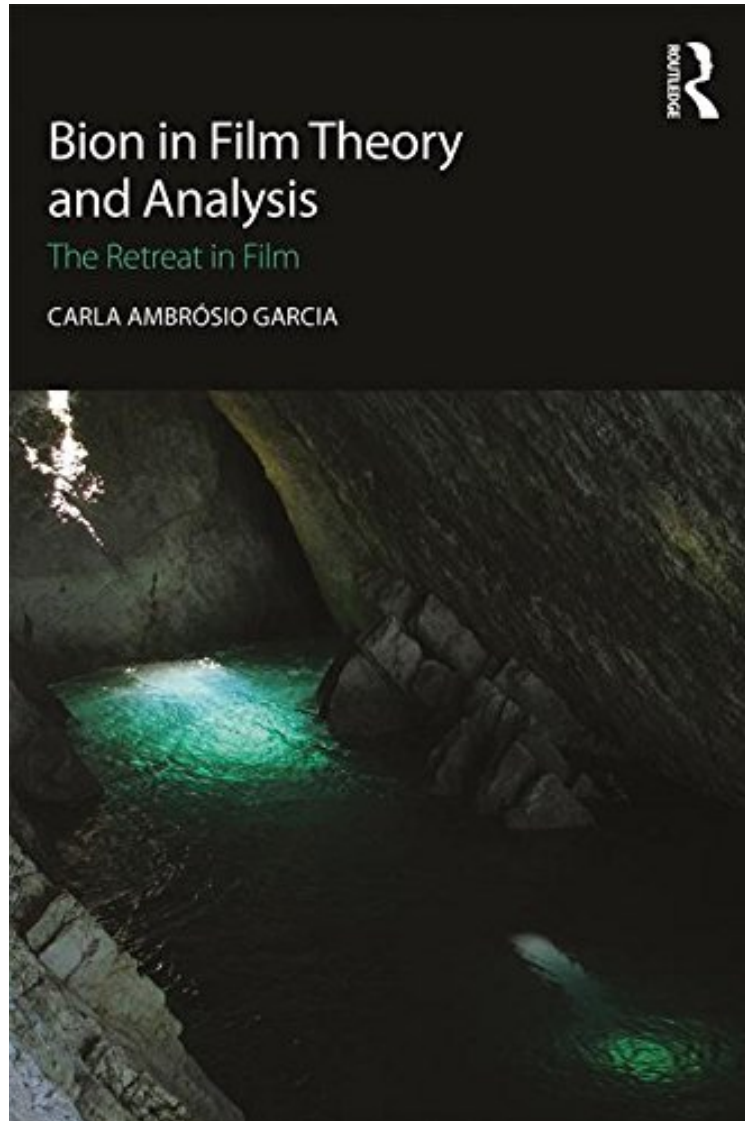


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Bion in Film Theory and Analysis: The Retreat in Film

Carla Ambrsio Garcia

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Carla Ambrsio Garcia : Bion in Film Theory and Analysis: The Retreat in Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bion in Film Theory and Analysis: The Retreat in Film:

In Bion in Film Theory and Analysis: The Retreat in Film, Carla Ambrsio Garcia introduces the rich potential of the thinking of British psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion for film theory. By so doing, she rethinks the space of the cinema as a

space of retreat, and brings new insights into the representation of retreat in film. Presented in two parts, the book seeks to deepen our understanding of the film experience and psychological growth. Part I places Bion's view on the importance of the epistemophilic instinct at the heart of a critique of the pleasure-centred theories of the cinematic apparatus of Jean-Louis Baudry, Christian Metz and Gaylyn Studlar, proposing an idea of cinema as thoughts in search of a thinker. Garcia then moves from Bion's epistemological period to his later work, which draws on mysticism, in order to posit an emotional experience in the cinema through which the subject can be or become real (or at one with O). Part II examines representations of retreat in four European films, directed by Ingmar Bergman, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Georges Perec and Bernard Queysanne, and Manoel de Oliveira, showing them to articulate a gesture of retreat as an emotionally turbulent transitional stage in the development of the psyche what Bion conceptualizes as caesura. Through its investigation of the retreat in cinema, the book challenges common understandings of retreat as a regressive movement by presenting it as a gesture and space that can also be future-oriented. *Bion in Film Theory and Analysis* will be of significant interest to academics and students of psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and film and media studies, as well as psychoanalysts and psychotherapists.

"*Bion in Film Theory* is that rare thing: a book that offers a renewed encounter between psychoanalysis and cinema. At once disciplined and productively wayward, this book opens up new ground for thinking about what we do when we use the environment created by a work of art: film, in this instance, but Garcia's intervention has a reach well beyond her immediate concerns. In particular, through her explorations of Bion's writings, the retreat becomes a generative figure via which to reflect not only on what psychoanalysis can do to our understanding of the experience of film but, more broadly, the conditions of life and labour in the 21st century. At stake, in effect, is a question about the futures of human mind and being and what cinema can contribute to our understanding of the forms of resistance made possible by retreat." - Prof. Vicky Lebeau, Professor of English, University of Sussex "This is a sophisticated piece of original research at the intersection of psychoanalysis and film studies. Carla Ambrsio Garcia brilliantly demonstrates why film theory's canonical accounts of spectatorial experience need to be revisited in the light of Wilfred Bion (and object-relations generally), and facilitates a productive thinking space for the ongoing discussion about how we might conceive of a revolutionary psychological metamorphosis in and through the experience of film." - Dr Andrew Asibong, Reader in Film and Cultural Studies, Birkbeck, University of London "Carla Ambrsio Garcia's fascinating book offers a new way of thinking about cinema, and its introduction of Bion to film studies ought to be both noticed and long lasting." - Dr Agnieszka Piotrowska, Filmmaker and Reader in Film Practice and Theory, University of Bedfordshire

About the Author
Carla Ambrsio Garcia is a filmmaker and academic who completed her doctorate in Film Studies at Kings College London (funded by Fundao Cincia e Tecnologia in Portugal). Her articles on film and psychoanalysis have been published in academic journals and edited collections, and she currently teaches at Kings College and Royal Holloway, University of London.