



1. The Return of the Suburban Fantastic Cinema: Nostalgia and Ecological Dystopia in the Suburbia

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Abstract

The present work focuses on the contemporary return of the Suburban Fantastic, a subgenre that tells narratives of children and adolescents who need to save their surroundings - the American suburbs - from fantastic exogenous elements, as is the case of the Netflix series *Stranger Things*. This essay focuses on the nostalgic, pro-suburb, and anti-scientific discourse present in the Netflix series in a context in which the environmental impacts of American suburbs are better understood. This urbanization model boomed during the 1950s, in the “Great Acceleration” period, a turning point in the Anthropocene Era when the increased use of natural resources and burning of fossil fuels started to show visible changes in the Earth System. Considered synonymous with the so-called “American Dream”, these low-density urbanizations occupy wide green horizons, cover them with asphalt, and demand a huge daily fuel expenditure. True ecological dystopias romanticized in Suburban Fantastic series and films as utopias that need to be saved by the younger generations.

Keywords: Suburban Fantastic; Suburbia; Great Acceleration; American Dream; Anthropocene

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