Cinema, Disasters and the Anthropocene
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6. The *Chernobyl* Miniseries as a Narration Case of Environmental Disasters in the Anthropocene Era[1]

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Abstract

During the Anthropocene, humanity negotiates its role as absolute rulers with the hope of regeneration from the ashes of disaster, finally embracing environmental requests. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986 marked the fate of the Soviet Union, as well as making world history. It was a traumatic event that reached planetary proportions, definitively cracking our security illusion and faith in technology. Visual communication is a catalyst for spreading global awareness at a surprising speed, mainly through fiction products. As a matter of fact, the *Chernobyl* miniseries (produced and released by HBO in 2019) was a world audience success showing how this event turned a city into a ghost town. It also allowed people to perceive the contrast between science's will and the power of political practice, asking the spectator to interpret the event and to develop the pertinent question. This study aims to recognise a role transcending pure entertainment in the *Chernobyl* miniseries: TV series are a cultural phenomenon that allow people to embrace the understanding of a global disaster, developing a collective consciousness.

Keywords: Chernobyl; Disaster fiction; Environmental Issues.

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