



## Film and Everyday Eco-disasters

By Robin L. Murray, Joseph K Heumann

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Eco-disasters such as coal-mining accidents, oil spills, and food-borne diseases appear regularly in the news, making them seem nearly commonplace. These ecological crises highlight the continual tensions between human needs and the environmental impact these needs produce. Contemporary documentaries and feature films explore environmental-human conflicts by depicting the consequences of our overconsumption and dependence on nonrenewable energy.

*Film and Everyday Eco-disasters* examines changing perspectives toward everyday eco-disasters as reflected in the work of filmmakers from the silent era forward, with an emphasis on recent films such as *Dead Ahead*, an HBO dramatization of the Exxon Valdez disaster; *Total Recall*, a science fiction action film highlighting oxygen as a commodity; *The Devil Wears Prada*, a comment on the fashion industry; and *Food, Inc.*, a documentary interrogation of the food industry. The authors evaluate not only the success of these films as rhetorical arguments but also their rhetorical strategies. This interdisciplinary approach to film studies fuses cultural, economic, and literary critiques in articulating an approach to ecology that points to sustainable development as an alternative to resource exploitations and their associated everyday eco-disasters.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“The authors’ grasp of historical and legal context is top-notch and the book consistently connects the issues and arguments represented in the films to their potential to inspire environmental activism in the viewer. . . . A broad-based, historically detailed overview of its fascinating and relevant central theme.”—Carter Soles, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*

(Carter Soles *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 2016-08-09)

#### About the Author

Robin L. Murray is a professor of English at Eastern Illinois University. Joseph K. Heumann is a professor emeritus of communication studies at Eastern Illinois University. Murray and Heumann are the coauthors of *Ecology and Popular Film: Cinema on the Edge*; *That’s All Folks: Ecocritical Readings of American Animated Features* (Nebraska, 2011); and *Gunfight at the Eco-Corral: Western Cinema and the Environment*.

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