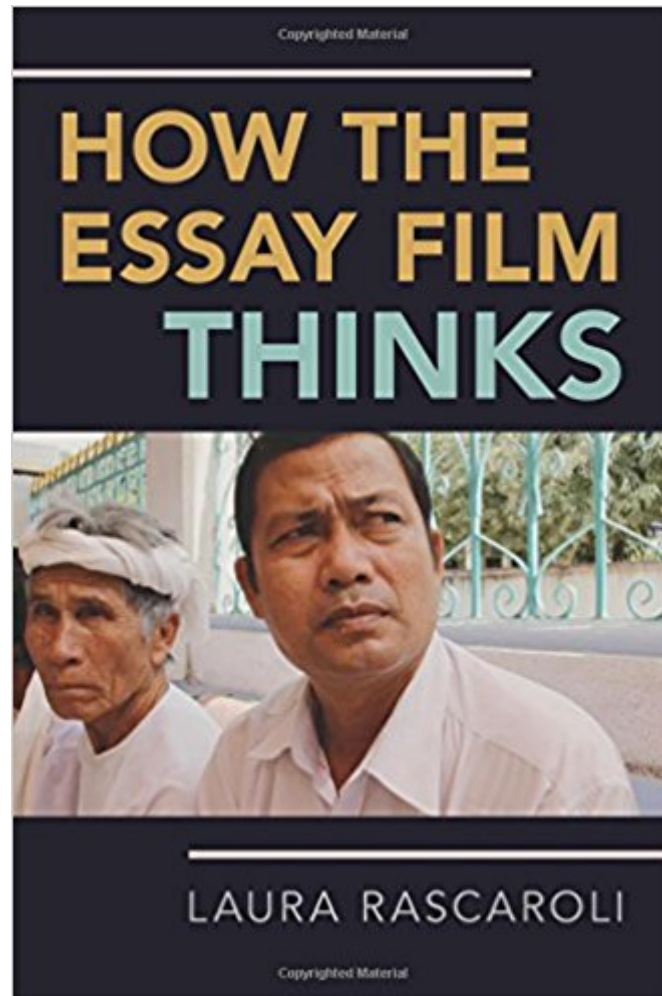




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How The Essay Film Thinks



Synopsis

This book offers a novel understanding of the epistemological strategies that are mobilized by the essay film, and of where and how such strategies operate. Against the backdrop of Adorno's discussion of the essay form's anachronistic, anti-systematic and disjunctive mode of resistance, and capitalizing on the centrality of the interstice in Deleuze's understanding of the cinema as image of thought, the book discusses the essay film as future philosophy-as a contrarian, political cinema whose argumentation engages with us in a space beyond the verbal. A diverse range of case studies discloses how the essay film can be a medium of thought on the basis of its dialectic use of audiovisual interstitiality. The book shows how the essay film's disjunctive method comes to be realized at the level of medium, montage, genre, temporality, sound, narration, and framing-all of these emerging as interstitial spaces of intelligence that illustrate how essayistic meaning can be sustained, often in contexts of political, historical or cultural extremity. The essayistic urge is not to be identified with a fixed generic form, but is rather situated within processes of filmic thinking that thrive in gaps.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (June 2, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0190238259

ISBN-13: 978-0190238254

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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"Laura Rascaroli confirms her position as a leading scholar on the history and critical expression of the essay film. The originality of her argument and the insights provided by case studies also mirror the energy and elegance of the essayistic approach. The 'antisystematic resistance' exemplified by the essay film bring forth the political and engaging function of a thinking image."-- Malin Wahlberg, Stockholm University

Laura Rascaroli is Professor of Film and Screen Media at University College Cork, Ireland. She is the author and editor of several volumes, including *The Personal Camera: Subjective Cinema and the Essay Film* (2009), *Crossing New Europe: Postmodern Travel and the European Road Movie* (2006), co-written with Ewa Mazierska, and *Antonioni: Centenary Essays* (2011), co-edited with John David Rhodes. She is the General Editor of *Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media*.

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