

Café Scientifique Headingley

Robert Shail Strange Encounters: Paranoia and British Science Fiction Cinema



Monday 13th March 2017 at 7:30 pm
(Partnership event with Headingley Literature Festival)

Venue: The New Headingley Club 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG

Time: Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

Entry: Donation for room hire and expenses: **£3 at the door**

Robert Shail will explain how Science Fiction, whether in literature or cinema, has often been used as a vehicle to express contemporary anxieties. Alien encounters, rogue technology and dystopian futures are often projections of real fears about our current predicaments. For example, in the 1950s and 1960s a cycle of American science fiction films, including *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) and *Them!* (1954), gave voice to Cold War anxieties and the threat of nuclear catastrophe. This talk however, will focus on the more neglected British science fiction cinema of the same period. Key films include the John Wyndham adaptations *Village of the Damned* (1960) and *The Day of the Triffids* (1962).

Robert Shail has led research development in the School of Film, Music and Performing Arts at Leeds Beckett University since 2015. He also teaches film history in the Northern Film School. He has published widely in these areas. His study of the Children's Film Foundation, which was supported by a Leverhulme Fellowship, has been published by Palgrave-Macmillan/BFI in 2015.



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the
Headingley Development Trust www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk at
www.newheadingleyclub.co.uk