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Sacred Bodies in Exceptional Times: Women, Camps, Dystopias

Giorgio Agamben's theorisation of the camp suggests that the concentration camp—a space where people are confined, stripped of rights and arbitrarily subjected to violence—may be understood as a paradigm of modern political concerns with the management of life. In light of this claim, this article considers the representation of camp spaces in popular 'future dystopia' films. It explores how these stories about future camps frame the biopolitical and engage with contemporary biopolitics, focusing on two recent examples: Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men* (2006) and Danny Boyle's *28 Days Later* (2002). Both films represent a future England dominated by biopolitical concerns which resonate in the present. In particular I am interested in how these stories represent women in camps as potentially reproductive bodies, and what these representations tell us about the significance of women's bodies within the logic of biopolitics.