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## The Scene of Violence

Cinema Crime Affect

Alison Young, *University of Melbourne, Australia.*

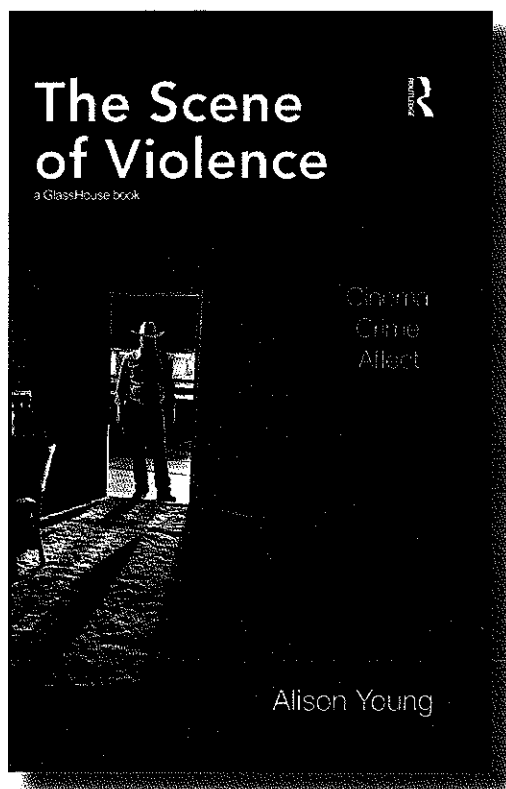
'Alison Young may be the best law and film scholar in the world. Her insight and eminence in the field are amply on display in *The Scene of Violence*. Here Young draws our attention to what she calls "the spectatorial relation engendered by film." No one who watches a film will ever watch it the same way after reading this book. No one who has ever thought about the relationship of law, violence and film will ever think about them the same way after reading this book. *The Scene of Violence* will be an instant classic.'

—Austin Sarat, *William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence & Political Science at Amherst College.*

In the contemporary fascination with images of crime, violence gets under our skin and keeps us enthralled. ***The Scene of Violence*** explores the spectator's encounter with the cinematic scene of violence – rape and revenge, homicide and serial killing, torture and terrorism. Providing a detailed reading of both classical and contemporary films – for example, *Kill Bill*, *Blue Velvet*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *The Matrix*, *Psycho*, *The Accused*, *Elephant*, *Seven*, *Thelma & Louise*, *United 93*, *Zodiac*, and *No Country for Old Men* – Alison Young returns the affective processes of the cinematic image to the study of law, crime and violence. Engaging with legal theory, cultural criminology and film studies, the book unfolds both our attachment to the authority of law and our identification with the illicit. Its original contribution is to bring together the cultural fascination of crime with a nuanced account of what it means to watch cinema. ***The Scene of Violence*** shows how the spectator is bound by the laws of film to the judgment of the crime-image.

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\$224.00 Hb, ISBN 9780415490719  
Publish December 2009, 200 pages  
Routledge

Book Information

# About the Authors

**Alison Young** is a Professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, where she teaches and researches in cultural criminology. She is the author of numerous books and articles on the intersections of law, crime and culture, such as *Imagining Crime* (Sage, 1996), *Judging the Image* (Routledge, 2005) and *The Scene of Violence* (Routledge, 2009, forthcoming), and also writes the blog *Images to Live By*. She is currently engaged in a three-year research project, supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant, investigating legal, cultural and criminological aspects of street art in a range of international locations.

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