Liverpool Film Seminar
2017 – 2018 series

Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites experts to deliver a series of talks. Topics vary greatly and the series does not focus on a specific aspect of film. Instead, a range of genres and approaches are celebrated, from historical reach to the internet’s impact on cinematic material.

Professor Elizabeth Cowie (University of Kent)

**Horrible images: ethics, affect and the viewer**

In this talk I look at the underbelly of affect, those states we term fear or terror, horror and anxiety that are engaged through performance art, photography and film, exploring how these feelings are reconciled or repudiated. My talk will draw on psychoanalytical understandings of trauma and anxiety to explore how we may think the question of ethics and the image. My focus will be on the spectacle of the still, or stilled image in film and photography - both fiction and documentary - and thence the narrative context of its presentation.

**Biography:**

Elizabeth Cowie is Professor Emeritus in Film Studies at the University of Kent, Canterbury. She was co-founder and co-editor in the 1970s of m/f a journal of feminist theory, and published Representing the Woman: Cinema and Psychoanalysis in 1997. She has subsequently written on film noir, on the horror of the horror film and on the cinematic dream-work.