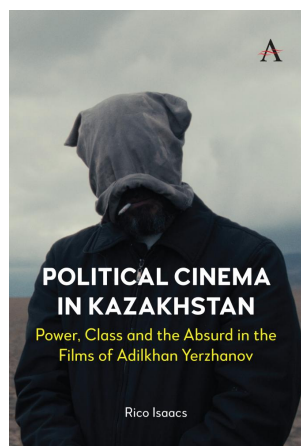




Political Cinema in Kazakhstan

Power, Class and the Absurd in the Films of Adilkhan Yerzhanov

By Rico Isaacs

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Analyses how Adilkhan Yerzhanov's absurdist cinema exposes corruption and power in authoritarian Kazakhstan, revealing both the potential and limitations of film as a form of political resistance.

Political Cinema in Kazakhstan is the first book-length study of the films of Adilkhan Yerzhanov, one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary world cinema. Across dark comedy, absurdism and satire, Yerzhanov exposes the contradictions of power, corruption and everyday life in authoritarian Kazakhstan, while creating films that resonate far beyond their national setting.

Key selling points

Develops an original theoretical framework that combines Walter Benjamin's dialectical image with bell hooks' counter-hegemonic narratives to reinterpret political cinema under authoritarianism.

Shows how absurdism, satire and cinematic form expose the contradictions of authoritarian power in contemporary Kazakhstan.

Presents the first book-length study devoted exclusively to the films of internationally acclaimed Kazakh director Adilkhan Yerzhanov.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Rico Isaacs is Professor of International Politics at the University of Lincoln and a Visiting Professor at Riga Stradiņš University. His research explores the intersection of culture and politics, with a particular focus on how this relationship is expressed in authoritarian and populist politics, especially across the post-communist world.

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