Dynamic Multimodality in Extreme Metal Performance Video: Dark Tranquillity’s ‘Uniformity’, Directed by Patric Ullaeus

Lori Burns, University of Ottawa

This paper examines the dynamic integration of words, music, and images in the extreme metal performance video of Dark Tranquillity’s ‘Uniformity’, directed by Patric Ullaeus. Adopting a multimodal approach to the analysis, I study the corporeal, temporal, and spatial dimensions across the three artistic domains of word, music, and image. The analytic framework responds to scholarly writings on multimodality from a range of perspectives. As the video spectator-listener engages with the interpretation of embodied subjectivity and cultural meaning in this video, a number of questions can be posed about the multimodal expression: how does the performance video present physical bodies and materials; how do these bodies move within space and time; how do the elements of structure and design shape the performance; how are the expressive strategies of the performers captured; and what discursive values drive the artistic representations?