

## De(constructing) Balkanism in the film *Dust* by Milcho Manchevski

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The second feature film of the Macedonian director Milcho Manchevski, *Dust* (2001), overleaping and transgressing historical and imaginary borders of the Far East and the "Farwest", Wild West and "Wild East", Western and "Eastern", provoked a lot of controversial reactions among the cinema critics and spectators, and became the object of a large polemic concerning the representation and imaginary construction of the Balkans. *Dust* will be approached in this study as a kind of contemporary cinematographic paradigm of the representation/construction of the Balkans and of the balkanic narrative, in the sense of the discourse of balkanism (as it's analyzed in Maria Todorova's book *Imagining the Balkans*). The Balkans as constructed and confined within the frame of the imaginary balkanic borders of the discourse of balkanism. In *Dust*, Manchevski is playing with this captivating construction/representation by quoting and parodying its balkanizing discourse. The object of this study is thus the discourse and the ideological structure of (de)balkanisation that support the balkanic narration of *Dust*, a film that deconstructs the borders of the balkanising narrations/representations/identifications. The contemporary discussion on post-colonial theory and its applicability on the context of the Balkans will also be taken in consideration in this approach of *Dust* as an answer to the "Western cultural colonialism".