**(Future) Apocalypse Now.**

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Ruins are monuments to history and the unique destructive event which rendered them ruined. To look upon a ruin is to engage in mnemonic process. Drawing on the theoretical work of Anthony Vidler, Tim Edensor and Jonathan Veitch I will initially apply the philosophy of ruination to literary architecture within science fiction which features stories of structural destruction and social collapse. I will argue how these textual spaces of ruination reflect philosophical and social anxieties regarding the present and future.

From his platform, I shall investigate the contemporary trend of urban exploration (the act of trespass onto derelict and abandoned properties in an effort to document and explore the forbidden space). I will argue that part of the enjoyment of apocalyptic fiction and urban exploration is the related potential to explore the forbidden unchecked. The want to venture forth into decay is perhaps a psychological desire to occupy history and defy the rules which bar access to a part of the human realm. Moreover, through urban exploration, the explorer has access to the dereliction of familiar structures (houses, hospitals, factories) that define their own time. I suggest that to walk through contemporary ruins is to partly imagine a future apocalypse. Thus maybe it is no surprise that one of the lead urban exploration sites is called *28 Days Later* (a reference to Danny Boyle's 2002 apocalyptic film).

My presentation will be enriched with photographs I have taken during my research.