



# Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture

By Erik Mortenson

Download now

Read Online →

## Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture

By Erik Mortenson

The image of the shadow in mid-twentieth-century America appeared across a variety of genres and media including poetry, pulp fiction, photography, and film. Drawing on an extensive framework that ranges from Cold War cultural histories to theorizations of psychoanalysis and the Gothic, Erik Mortenson argues that shadow imagery in 1950s and 1960s American culture not only reflected the anxiety and ambiguity of the times but also offered an imaginative space for artists to challenge the binary rhetoric associated with the Cold War.

After contextualizing the postwar use of shadow imagery in the wake of the atomic bomb, *Ambiguous Borderlands* looks at shadows in print works, detailing the reemergence of the pulp fiction crime fighter the Shadow in the late-1950s writings of Sylvia Plath, Amiri Baraka, and Jack Kerouac. Using Freudian and Jungian conceptions of the unconscious, Mortenson then discusses Kerouac's and Allen Ginsberg's shared dream of a "shrouded stranger" and how it shaped their Beat aesthetic. Turning to the visual, Mortenson examines the dehumanizing effect of shadow imagery in the Cold War photography of Robert Frank, William Klein, and Ralph Eugene Meatyard. Mortenson concludes with an investigation of the use of chiaroscuro in 1950s film noir and the popular television series *The Twilight Zone*, further detailing how the complexities of Cold War society were mirrored across these media in the ubiquitous imagery of light and dark.

From comics to movies, Beats to bombs, *Ambiguous Borderlands* provides a novel understanding of the Cold War cultural context through its analysis of the image of the shadow in midcentury media. Its interdisciplinary approach, ambitious subject matter, and diverse theoretical framing make it essential reading for anyone interested in American literary and popular culture during the fifties and sixties.

 [Download Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold Wa ...pdf](#)

# Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture

By Erik Mortenson

**Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture** By Erik Mortenson

The image of the shadow in mid-twentieth-century America appeared across a variety of genres and media including poetry, pulp fiction, photography, and film. Drawing on an extensive framework that ranges from Cold War cultural histories to theorizations of psychoanalysis and the Gothic, Erik Mortenson argues that shadow imagery in 1950s and 1960s American culture not only reflected the anxiety and ambiguity of the times but also offered an imaginative space for artists to challenge the binary rhetoric associated with the Cold War.

After contextualizing the postwar use of shadow imagery in the wake of the atomic bomb, *Ambiguous Borderlands* looks at shadows in print works, detailing the reemergence of the pulp fiction crime fighter the Shadow in the late-1950s writings of Sylvia Plath, Amiri Baraka, and Jack Kerouac. Using Freudian and Jungian conceptions of the unconscious, Mortenson then discusses Kerouac's and Allen Ginsberg's shared dream of a "shrouded stranger" and how it shaped their Beat aesthetic. Turning to the visual, Mortenson examines the dehumanizing effect of shadow imagery in the Cold War photography of Robert Frank, William Klein, and Ralph Eugene Meatyard. Mortenson concludes with an investigation of the use of chiaroscuro in 1950s film noir and the popular television series *The Twilight Zone*, further detailing how the complexities of Cold War society were mirrored across these media in the ubiquitous imagery of light and dark.

From comics to movies, Beats to bombs, *Ambiguous Borderlands* provides a novel understanding of the Cold War cultural context through its analysis of the image of the shadow in midcentury media. Its interdisciplinary approach, ambitious subject matter, and diverse theoretical framing make it essential reading for anyone interested in American literary and popular culture during the fifties and sixties.

**Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture** By Erik Mortenson  
**Bibliography**

- Rank: #3110405 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-02-03
- Released on: 2016-02-03
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold Wa ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* By Erik Mortenson

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"As this critically informed and impeccably readable narrative demonstrates, shadows were everywhere in Cold War America, their indeterminacy flickering through literature, film, photography, and television, haunting and unsettling the supposedly clear ideological binaries and battle lines of the era. From the literal shadows of human figures seared onto the walls of Hiroshima by the blast of the atom bomb in 1945 to the chiaroscuro lighting of film noir classics such as *Kiss Me Deadly* a decade later, Erik Mortenson illuminates the fascinating cultural history of one of the Cold War's most seductive and significant rhetorical tropes."

--Oliver Harris, professor of American literature, president of the European Beat Studies Network

"*Ambiguous Borderlands* offers a scholarly and yet utterly readable window on a heretofore under explored area of Beat studies. For those interested in Kerouac and Ginsberg, but for whom Beat studies seem stale and/or repetitive, this fresh perspective will prove thrilling. Do yourself a favor and explore the shadows of the Beat Generation."

--David S. Wills, editor of *Beatdom* literary journal

#### About the Author

**Erik Mortenson** is an assistant professor in the department of English and Comparative Literature at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. He is the author of *Capturing the Beat Moment: Cultural Politics and the Poetics of Presence*, which was selected as a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title in 2011.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Benjamin Manno:**

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture*. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

##### **James Fitzgibbons:**

This *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* is new way for you who has attention to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books build itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there isn't any in

reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book style for your better life in addition to knowledge.

**Phillip Darrah:**

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our information from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen require book to know the change information of year in order to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, can also bring us to around the world. Through the book *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* we can consider more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? For being creative person must choose to read a book. Simply choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life at this time book *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture*. You can more appealing than now.

**Lowell Seymour:**

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information from your book. Book is composed or printed or outlined from each source in which filled update of news. In this particular modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for you actually. From media social such as newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just looking for the *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online *Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture* By Erik Mortenson #KF91PC8270T**

## **Read Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson for online ebook**

Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson books to read online.

### **Online Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson ebook PDF download**

#### **Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson Doc**

**Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson Mobipocket**

**Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson EPub**

**KF91PC8270T: Ambiguous Borderlands: Shadow Imagery in Cold War American Culture By Erik Mortenson**