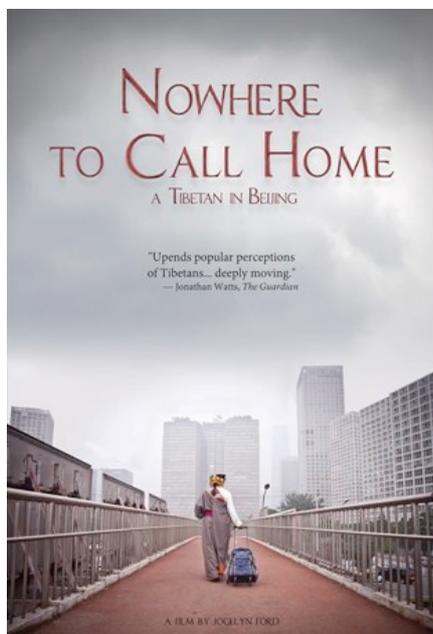


# B-FILM: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies



Birmingham Centre for Film Studies

January 2015 Newsletter



There is a special screening of the film *Nowhere to Call Home, A Tibetan in Beijing* on Thursday 5 February at 6pm at the Mockingbird Theatre and Bar at the Custard Factory in Birmingham. *Nowhere To Call Home* tells the powerful story of a Tibetan widow (Zanta) who stands up to her authoritarian father-in-law so that her son can get an education. The ground-breaking film has won accolades in China from both Tibetans and Han Chinese and is paving the way for a new conversation. The film screening will begin at 6pm and a panel discussion including **Michele Aaron** will follow the film, featuring the film maker, Jocelyn Ford, and a panel of specialists from the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham. There is no need to register and the event is free, however, a donation of £5 by non-students would be welcome to support Zanta.

Website: [Custard Factory](#), [Mockingbird Theatre](#)  
More about the Film: [A Tibetan in Beijing](#).

**Michele Aaron** has been awarded an AHRC Networks Grant of almost £50,000 for a project entitled 'Digital Technology and Human Vulnerability: Towards an Ethical Film Praxis'. This project investigates how the use of digital technologies transforms our engagement with, understanding of, and response to human vulnerability. For this pilot study, a multidisciplinary team will work with vulnerable adults, those affected by terminal illness here, to co-create digital films and to develop digital spaces that bring them to wider and new audiences. The research will develop a prototypical model of ethical film praxis for digital arts and media researchers and practitioners, for broader application for the third sector but also as the foundation for further research development and the larger project that this pilot study initiates.



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

**Rob Stone** has been awarded the Koldo Mitxelena Chair in Basque Studies at the University of Chicago in recognition of his work on Basque cinema. This chair seeks to expand Basque Studies to North America. It is part of the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago, which hosts a leading Basque professor to give seminars and public lectures on Basque humanities. Professor Stone is the first non-Basque to be awarded the Chair. He recently received a Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust, which enabled him to research and co-write, with Professor María Pilar Rodríguez of the University of Deusto, the forthcoming book *Basque Cinema: A Cultural and Political History* (IB Tauris, 2015) and its Spanish translation *Cine Vasco* (Comunicación Social, 2015). Rob will deliver a series of lectures on Basque cinema at the University of Chicago in May 2015.

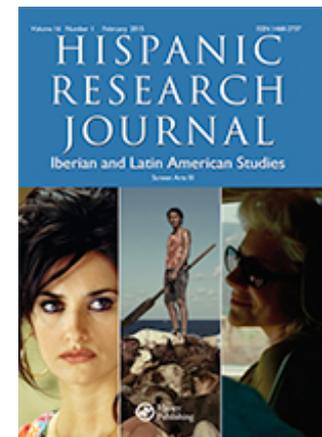


**Silvio Carta**, who completed his PhD in Italian Studies at the University of Birmingham, published *Visual Anthropology in Sardinia* with Peter Lang. *The book* explores the technique, style and methodology of documentary films about Sardinia, investigating how such films construct different experiences and identities, and reflecting on the advantages of the medium of documentary film over written ethnographic texts. Following a discussion of theoretical developments in the area of visual anthropology in the twentieth century, Silvio turns to case studies of documentary filmmaking related to Sardinia from the fascist era onwards, offering a survey of the particular and somewhat peculiar filmic ethnographic discourse established in relation to Sardinia, which has been constructed to a large extent as an 'Other' to peninsular Italy. The subject is a complex one, ranging across the fields of film studies, anthropology, literary and cultural studies and, to some extent, philosophy. The book enriches scholarship not only on the cultural construction of Sardinia in the popular, political and intellectual imaginary and in its relation to Italy, but also on visual epistemologies and the ethics and practice of ethnographic filmmaking.



**Elystan Griffiths** reports that the PhD student Leila Mukhidab, whose thesis he co-supervised with Sara Jones (Modern Languages/Institute for German Studies), successfully defended her thesis with the title 'Politics and the Moving Image: Contemporary German and Austrian Cinema Through the Lens of Benjamin, Kracauer and Kluge'. Her examiners were Professor Erica Carter (KCL) and Dr Nick Martin (IGS) and the thesis was passed with only typographical corrections. Leila lives in Berlin but like all postgraduate students working in the area of Film Studies at the University of Birmingham is a welcome member of B-Film.

The annual Screen Arts issue of the *Hispanic Research Journal* is dedicated to articles on film and film cultures, television, photography, the Internet, and digital media in the Iberian and Latin American world. The first issue to be edited by **Rob Stone**, the Screen Arts editor, is the current issue (Volume III, Issue HRJ Vol.16 No.1 (February 2015)). Chronologically, geographically, and thematically, this issue has been compiled to represent both the basis and the potential of the Screen Arts issue and articles thus range from pre-war Parisian exhibition spaces to contemporary Cuban flea-pits, from the Mexican desert to European metropolises, from art house to mainstream, from Argentina to Spain and Cuba, and from saints to zombies.



Finally, the One-Minute Movie Competition in association with the Arts and Science Festival 2015 is being run by **Richard Langley**. The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students and the deadline for submissions is Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. For more information on the rules and prizes go to or e-mail Richard.

Next newsletter: All the special B-Film related events at the Science and Arts Festival in March. Send all of your relevant news to: [r.stone@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.stone@bham.ac.uk)