



Birmingham Centre for Film Studies

The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies

MARCH-APRIL
NEWSLETTER



B-Film met the spring with a reboot designed to make it more representative and efficient. B-Film is now co-directed by **Rob Stone** and **Clodagh Brook** and its management group is completed by **Michele Aaron** and **Andrew Watts**. B-Film is located in EDACS, while its remit remains interdisciplinary and inter-departmental. The reboot included a commitment to a higher profile on social media and the introduction of its new Facebook page to carry news of events and activities more rapidly to its members and friends. Find us at www.facebook.com/BfilmatUoB

The University's 2015 Science and Arts festival overlapped with Birmingham's annual Flatpack film festival in March and B-Film was strongly represented in a series of diverse events. Basque filmmaker Jone Karres brought eh the UK premiere of her documentary **SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE ALARDE** to the University for a festival screening followed by an interview with **Rob Stone** and a Q&A with the audience.



Karres (left) also delivered a filmmaking workshop to undergraduate and postgraduate students from the College of Arts and Law (below) in which discussion and instruction ranged from financial planning to copyright clearance, team-building, marketing, distribution and the ethics and politics of documentary filmmaking.

Other events in March included **Kate Ince** presenting the film **GIRLHOOD** to a public audience at the Electric Cinema as part of the Flatpack festival and William Brown of the University of Roehampton presenting his full-length film **EN ATTENDANT GODARD**, a witty and warm exercise in cinephilia, to an audience of B-Film members.



In March, B-Film was joined by two PhD students on secondment from the University of Deusto. **Olesya Dronyak** and **Lora Markova** (left) from the Ukraine and Bulgaria respectively, participated in events and organised and hosted their own session dedicated to young cinema from the Ukraine. This well-attended event featured an array of short films and prompted a lively discussion about emerging filmmakers in young cinemas in contemporary Europe.

The annual Society for Film and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference is one of the biggest events in the academic calendar and this year it was held in Montreal. B-Film was well represented. **Michele Aaron** delivered a paper on the social justice documentary in a panel entitled FRAMING SOCIAL JUSTICE dedicated to 'revolutionary' documentaries and **Rob Stone** presented on contemporary Basque cinema in a panel on SMALL CINEMAS IN RECESSION EUROPE (see below). Next year the SCMS moves to Atlanta.

N9 Small Cinemas in Recession Europe

Constraints and Opportunities

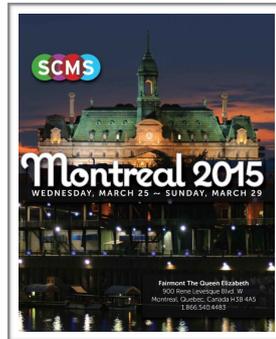
CHAIR **Rob Stone** ✦ *University of Birmingham*

Rob Stone ✦ *University of Birmingham* ✦ "Basque Cinema: Online, Elsewhere, and Otherwise Engaged"

Belen Vidal ✦ *King's College London* ✦ "Cinephilia in Times of Crisis: The Paradoxes of Spain's 'Other' Cinema"

RESPONDENT **Mark Betz** ✦ *King's College London*

SPONSOR Latino/a Caucus



N12 Framing Social Justice

The Creative, Experiential, and Ethical Demands of the "Revolutionary" Documentary

CHAIR **Michele Aaron** ✦ *University of Birmingham*

Dima Saber ✦ *Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research* ✦ "Making Sense of Syria's Scattered Narratives: Towards an Experiential Approach to Time and History"

Michele Aaron ✦ *University of Birmingham* ✦ "Towards an Ethical Gaze: The Social Justice Documentary and the Obscenities of History Unfolding"

RESPONDENT **Shohini Chaudhuri** ✦ *University of Essex*

SPONSOR Middle East Caucus

In publications news, **Silvio Carta** published an article entitled 'Documentary Film, Observational Style and Postmodern Anthropology in Sardinia' in *Visual Anthropology*, 28:3, 227-247.



In addition, **Rob Stone** saw the publication of his commissioned article 'The Disintegration of Spanish Cinema' in a special edition on Hispanic visual arts of the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*, XCII: 3, 423-38, as well as an article on the film BOYHOOD entitled 'About Time: Before BOYHOOD' in a special dossier on the filmmaker Richard Linklater in *Film Quarterly* (left) that was also commissioned by the journal. **Stone** was also invited to join the editorial advisory board of the *[in]Transition* journal – a collaboration between MediaCommons and the Society for Cinema and Media Studies' official

publication, *Cinema Journal* – and the first peer-reviewed academic journal of videographic film and moving image studies: <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/intransition/> **Stone's** new video essay 'Tag' will appear in the Fall 2015 edition of the journal.

Finally, the third annual screening event showcasing work by recent alumni of the MA in Film and Television: Research and Production at the University of Birmingham took place in March, organised by **Richard Langley**. The winner of the inaugural One Minute Movie Competition was Dan White (BA American & Canadian Studies and English Literature) for his film *An Interesting Trip*. Watch it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlfbhxcSzuM>



Don't forget to check out the B-Film Facebook page at BfilmatUoB and please send any news items for that and the next B-Film newsletter to r.stone@bham.ac.uk.