



B-FILM: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies

September 2012- June 2013

Interim Report

B-Film: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies was established in September 2012 as an interdisciplinary, autonomous and expanding research centre that principally - although by no means exclusively - brings together academics from Modern Languages, American and Canadian Studies and the new department of Art History, Film and Visual Studies.

Management

Director: Professor Rob Stone
Acting Director: Dr Alex Marlow-Mann
Steering Group:
Dr Michele Aaron
Dr Clodagh Brook
Dr Elystan Griffiths
Mr John Horne
Dr Kate Ince
Dr Richard Langley
Dr James Walters



Website

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/b-film>

Milestone events

- Approval of Research Centre status
- Appointment of Chair of European Film
- Appointment of Leverhulme Trust-funded Teaching Fellow in European Film
- Establishment of management structure
- Establishment of website
- Ongoing development of research strategy
- Involvement in negotiations with Barber Institute and Soda Pictures to establish on-campus screening facilities
- Major link-up with The Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds initiated with AHRC funded project
- Establishment of Advisory Board
- Establishment of research project/external funding workshops each term
- First major conference - Cine-Excess - to be held in November 2013 in collaboration with the University of Brighton

Outstanding concerns

Lack of dedicated screening facilities on campus

External Funding Awards:

- £39,805 AHRC Care for the Future Exploratory Awards 2012 - Screening European Heritage: History on Film, The Heritage Industry and Cultural Policy. RA appointed and shared with the Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds.

- £95,780 Leverhulme Trust Two-Year Major Research Fellowship 2012-14, Basque Cinema: History, Politics, Art.

Internal Funding Awards

- £590 from College of Arts and Law Research and Knowledge Transfer Fund for attendance at II Cinema Ritrovato film festival and the Cineteca di Bologna.

Collaborative Research Projects

- Screening European Heritage with the Centre for World Cinemas at Leeds University on an AHRC funded project entitled Screening European Heritage, which looks into the cultural engagement of European films in relation to history, tourism and the kind of cultural spaces that they engender. The project began with a workshop in December 2012 and this initial stage concludes with a major international conference in September 2013. The project website: <http://arts.leeds.ac.uk/screeningeuropeanheritage/network/>
- Cine-Excess with the University of Brighton. In November 2013. Brighton will run a Cine Excess Film Festival, featuring screenings, premieres and filmmaker guests; B-Film at Birmingham will run the accompanying academic conference and will share the guests and a few of the screenings. In addition to the screenings and alongside the conference there will be workshops to network and brainstorm projects for funding such as one that considers nationalist politics and pulp imagery across a range of European traditions within a specific historical framework and including a focus on national contexts of trauma and nation-building.
- Communication with the University of Deusto in the Basque Country and others in developing projects and networks with a view to external research bids on nationalist iconography and cinema. Research Group website: <http://www.research.deusto.es/cs/Satellite/deustoresearch/es/centros-equipos-e-investigadores/equipos-de-investigacion/comunicacion/equipoinvestiga>

Publications

Books (published or in press)

- *Death and the Moving Image: Ideology, Iconography and I.* Edinburgh University Press.
- *Walk, Don't Run: The Cinema of Richard Linklater.* Columbia University Press / Wallflower.

Edited books

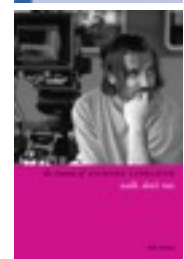
Members of B-Film were responsible for editing or co-editing the following volumes:

- *Envisaging Death: Visual Culture and Dying.* Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- *The Companion to Luis Buñuel.* Blackwell.
- *Archival Film Festivals.* St Andrews Film Studies.
- *Screening Songs in Hispanic and Lusophone Cinema.* Manchester University Press.

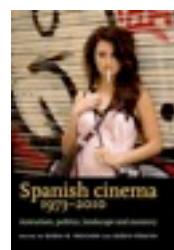
Chapters in Edited Books (published or in press)

Members of B-Film published chapters in the following edited books:

- *Ealing Revisited.* BFI.
- *Italian Popular Cinema.* Palgrave MacMillan
- *Television Aesthetics and Style.* Continuum/Bloomsbury.



- *Archival Film Festivals*. St Andrews Film Studies.
- *The Power of Death: Perceptions of Death in the Western World*. Oxford: Berghahn.
- *Existentialism and Contemporary Cinema: A Beauvoirean Perspective*. Oxford: Berghahn.
- *La España de 'Viridiana'*. Zaragoza: Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza.
- *Impure Cinema: Intermedial and Intercultural Approaches to Film*. London / New York: I.B. Tauris.
- *The Companion to Luis Buñuel*. Blackwell.
- *Immagini di piombo: Cinema, storia e terrorismi in Europa*. Milan: Bevivino.
- *Screening Songs in Hispanic and Lusophone Cinema*. Manchester University Press.
- *Spanish Cinema 1973-2010: Auteurism, Politics, Landscape and Memory*. Manchester University Press.



Keynote addresses and Invited papers

Members of B-Film gave guest lectures at the universities of Royal Holloway, Leeds, Aberystwyth, Birmingham and Bedfordshire in the UK, Università Ca' Foscari in Venice, Pamplona (Navarre) and Deusto (Bilbao) in Spain.

Conference Papers

Members of B-Film will give papers at NECS (European Network for Cinema and Media Studies) Prague in June for a panel on 'Film and Vulnerability' proposed by members. Members will also speak at the Film-Philosophy conference in Amsterdam and the Studies in French Cinema conference in June.

Visiting speakers

A programme of special events included the following guest speakers: Dr. Michele Pierson, Dr. Paul Grainge, Dr. Alex Fischer and Dr. Libby Saxton.

PG Teaching

The new MA Literature and Film had a very lively and productive year with students from the UK, Greece, Iran, China and Korea. A programme of postgraduate films from the Film and Television: Research and Production MA was screened in March 2013. AHFVS's new PG programme 'Curating Research in Art and Film' has been approved for a 2014-15 launch.

UG Teaching

The BA American and Canadian Studies and Film was approved in the last session to run with the optional 'study year abroad' as year 3. Among the new film modules for next year in ACS is 'Postcolonial Film' which will be available to final year undergraduate and to postgraduate students and 'Television Aesthetics' to final years. In 2013-14 AHFVS will launch new modules on 'The Art of the Moving Image' (year 1), 'Behind the Camera: Women's Film-making from the 1960s to the Present' (year 2) and 'The Political Thriller on Film: Genre, Ideology and Emotion' (final year). A new single honours degree in Film studies is entering the preparatory stage.