Pedro Costa in London
See inside for details
Dr Luciana Martins (CILAVS), Dr Sven Helmer (Computer Science) and Professor Denise Arnold (Visiting Professor, ILCA) have been awarded £840K from the AHRC for a major research project entitled *Weaving Communities of Practice. Textiles, Culture and Identity in the Andes: a Semiotic and Ontological Approach*. The project started in July 09. It encompasses museum collections in Bolivia, Peru, Chile and England and interviews with contemporary weavers to develop a regional-wide study of weaving traditions that have been practised from at least Tiwanaku times up to the present. This ethnographic research concerns the cultural rescue of endangered weaving practices in the region, while providing new methods to document and link them to emerging industries.

Drawing on innovative methodologies combining fieldwork, digital documentation, information visualization and ontology, this three-year project develops a common language for understanding Andean cloth to be shared between Visual, Computer and Museum Studies. The main electronic output of the project, to be incorporated into CILAVS’ website, will be a knowledge base in which the data from heterogeneous sources provided by the interdisciplinary teams can be stored. In particular, the system will provide a 3-D graphical user interface enabling the study of the structure and patterning of the threads themselves.

For more details visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/cilavs/research/projects/
Pedro Costa Seminar

29 September 2009

The Portuguese filmmaker Pedro Costa will give a talk at Birkbeck associated with the forthcoming retrospective of his work at the Starr Auditorium, Tate Modern in September and October 2009.


International Symposium:
Reality Effects: Poetics of Locality, Memory, and the Body in Contemporary Argentine and Brazilian Cinema

26–28 November 2009

This symposium invites us to critically de- and re-construct notions of national cinema in an increasingly globalized image-world. It does so by focusing the question of the real (or, of realism in film) on areas that resist metaphoric or allegorical readings, including figurations of the local and the intimate, the body, and the self. Thus, the event aims to re-conceptualize the real in contemporary cinema as separate from the referential. This symposium is part of the AHRC-funded series Recoveries of the Real: New Argentine and Brazilian Cinema in the Global Image World, coordinated by Professor Jens Andermann.

Keynote speakers: Karim Ainouz, Zé Avellar, Martín Rejtman, Andrea Tonacci.

Events are free and open to all.
The website is regularly updated with details:
www.bbk.ac.uk/cilavs/events/
Visiting researchers

British Town Planning in the Tropics

Dr Renato Leão Rego (Universidade Estadual de Maringá) has just published *As cidades plantadas: os britânicos e a construção da paisagem* (Humanidades, 2009), which deals with a British land development scheme in Southern Brazil between the years 1924–1944. The scheme was responsible for the construction of a railway and the foundation of a dozen new towns in Paraná. Renato developed this research project as Associate Research Fellow at CILAVS in 2007.

2009 Film Festival Award

*Plan Rosebud 2* by Dr María Ruido (Universitat de Barcelona) has been awarded the Best Feature Documentary Award at the 2009 New York Independent Film & Video Festival. The film stems from a research project that María developed as a Visiting Researcher at CILAVS with the support of Dr Mari Paz Balibrea, in 2008. This project explored the relationship between representation and the politics of memory in Spain during the last few decades, tracing a comparative look at the United Kingdom within the context of European democracies.

Non-Literary Fiction

Esther Gabara, Associate Professor of Romance Studies, and Art, Art History & Visual Studies at Duke University, is visiting CILAVS in 2009-10 to develop her book-length project entitled *Non-Literary Fiction: Invention and Interventions in Contemporary American Visual Culture*. The broad aim of the project is to understand how visual fictions operate as strategies of in(ter)vention in contemporary political struggles, a period defined by the global expansion of neoliberalism from the dictatorships of the 1960s and 1970s to the present. Esther is the author of *Errant Modernism: The Ethos of Photography in Mexico and Brazil* (Duke, 2008).
Latin America in Photography and Film

This project aims to develop a cross-referenced, searchable register of visual sources in the UK, documenting Britain’s photographic and filmic engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of World War II. In the areas of trade, diplomacy, agricultural production, geographical exploration, anthropology, culture and religion, the British presence in Latin America left a rich visual archive that has so far been under-researched. Recovering an extant but neglected archive, Latin America in Photography and Film provides researchers with a useful tool to address this imbalance.

For further information, contact Dr Diane Gabrysiak (d.gabrysiak@bbk.ac.uk) or Dr Luciana Martins (l.martins@bbk.ac.uk), or visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/ibamuseum2

The Anthropology of Slavery

The collaboration of CILAVS with the University of Granada in the Spanish government funded project on the anthropology of slavery, with the participation of Dr Carmen Fracchia, is developing well. The team had their first international workshop in Granada in June 2009; a website www.antropologielaesclavitud.org/ and a forthcoming book on Los negrafricanos y sus descendientes en España Siglos XVI y XVII to be published in Madrid are currently under preparation.
Luis Camnitzer
Online Exhibition

The first temporary exhibition at the Iberoamerican Museum of Visual Culture on the Web features the work of Luis Camnitzer. An award-winning artist, essayist and critic, Luis Camnitzer is Professor Emeritus of Art at SUNY Old Westbury. He served as Viewing Program Curator at the Drawing Center in New York City from 1999 to 2006. His work is in the permanent collections of major museums in the United States, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. This exhibition is curated by Dr John Kraniauskas and Dr Luciana Martins.

To enter the exhibition please visit:
www.bbk.ac.uk/ibamuseum2/
exhibitions/temporary-exhibitions

It’s not too late to apply

CILAVS is an integral part of the Iberian and Latin American Studies Department, which also runs a number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. These programmes reflect the disciplinary specialisms of staff, which include literary theory, translation studies, applied linguistics, pragmatics, critical theory, poetics, cultural geography, childhood studies, visual culture, postcolonial and subaltern studies.

For further details, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/arts/spanish