

Seminar 23rd – 24th May 2019

Birkbeck 'Arts Week'. Room: Keynes Library, School of Arts, Birkbeck. 43 Gordon Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1H 0PD



‘Japanese Transnational Cinema’

Since the postwar discovery of Japanese cinema in the West, there has been a tendency to draw on essentialist visions of this filmography, understating its uniqueness as a consequence of its isolation from the rest of the World and the correlation to its aesthetic and philosophical tradition. In other words, Japanese cinema has been often regarded as an unequivocal result of Japanese culture.

This seminar on ‘Japanese Transnational Cinema’ proposes a new methodology, attempting to challenge this old paradigm by highlighting the limitations of studying Japanese film as a cinematic phenomenon confined to its national borders. Is Japanese cinema a national cinema? To what extent is Japanese cinema Japanese? On the one hand, filmmakers have always been exposed to the international flow of images, stories, iconographies, and film theories. Are external influences and Japanese film uniqueness incompatible? On the other hand, Japanese cinema has also involved the representation of other cultures. What are the contradictions in the Japanese representation of the "other"? In addition, the Japanese film industry cannot be completely understood without taking into account its huge transnational character from a production-distribution-and-consumption point of view.

Papers in this seminar seek innovative analytical approaches aimed at interrogating the cultural complexities of Japanese film production, illustrating to what extent Japanese cinema should also be assessed through its transnational dimension.

Organising committee: Marcos Centeno (chair), Kerstin Fooker, Griseldis Kirsch, Norimasa Morita, Alejandra Armendariz, Syada Dastagir, Lois Barnet, Laurence Green.

Event free but book your tickets here.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/japanese-transnational-cinema-tickets-59050962017#tickets>

Birkbeck event organised in partnership with SOAS, Waseda University and CILAVS.

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PROGRAMME. 23 MAY

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.30-10 | Registration |
| 10 – 10.15 | Introduction. Marcos Centeno, Nori Morita, Akane Kawakami |
| | Panel 1. Transnationality in non-fiction. Chair: Marcos Centeno |
| 10.15-10.55 | Hideaki Fujiki (Nagoya) |

*Global Imagination of Ontological Reality by Transnational
Radioactive Documentaries*

10.55-11.35 Kerstin Fookan (Birkbeck)
*Inabata and the Lumières – Exploring the Transnational Foundations
of Cinema in Japan*

11.35-11.50 Coffee break

Panel 2: Zainichi Cinema: Korean authors in Japan. Chair: Griseldis
Kirsch (SOAS)

11.50-12.20 Nori Morita (Waseda)
Japanese National Cinema Unsettled: Zainichi Films since the 1980

12.20-13.00 Hyunseon Lee (SOAS)
*"Our Homeland" - A Zainichi Film Transcending Japanese and Korean
Culture on the Silver Screen*

13-14 Lunch

Panel 3: Transnational aesthetics and modes of representation. Chair:
Kerstin Fookan (Birkbeck)

14-14.40 Syada Dastagir (Birkbeck)
*Idealising India through the Tokyo Trials: transnational co production and
nationalist narratives*

14.40-15.20 Adam Bingham (SOAS)
Genre by Any Other Name

15.20-15.35 Coffee break

**Panel 4. From Japan to Latin America. Alternative Cinematic
Experiences.** Chair: Mari-Paz Balibrea (Birkbeck)

15.35-16.15 Marcos Centeno (Birkbeck)
*From Africa to Latin America: Transnationality in Susumu Hani's theories
and cinematic experiences.*

16.15.-16.55 Alejandra Armendariz (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos)
*Cinema, Revolution and Transnational Co-Productions between Japan and
Cuba*

24 May

Panel 5. Transnational gender identities. Chair: Irene González-López
(Kingston)

10.00-10.40 Kinoshita Chika (Kyoto)

Transnational Appreciation as a Feminist Tactics: The 1930s Girls' School Culture

10.40-11.20 Lois Barnett (SOAS)
The Modern Boy and the Screen: Media Representation of Young Urban Men Wearing Western Style Clothing in 1920s and 1930s Japan.

11.20-11.35 Coffee break

Panel 6. Chair: Influences from Western literary forms. Chair: Marcos Centeno (Birkbeck)

11.35-12.05 Kenta Kato (Waseda)
Disciples of Oscar Wilde: Effeminate Characters in Japanese Gendai-geki Films

12.05-12.45 Lola Martinez (SOAS/University of Oxford)
Transnational or Transcultural? Kurosawa's Shakespeare Adaptations

12.45-14 Lunch

Panel 7. Chair: Anime and the transnational. Chair: Kerstin Fookan (Birkbeck)

2-2.40 Alice Teodorescu (Independent Scholar)
When monsters collide: the transcultural vampire and its representations in Japanese animation

2.40-15.20 Laurence Green (SOAS)
Soundtracking a new 'Japaneseness' - Musical aesthetic and aspiration in Japan's economic bubble

15.20-15.30 Coffee break

Panel 8: Japanese-Korean interactions. Chair: Nori Morita (Waseda)

15.30-16.10 Till Weingartner (University College Cork)
Return Ticket to Pyongyang: Transnational Aspects in the Films of Yang Yonghi

16.10-16.50 Jinhee Choi (King's College London)
Home is Where the Kitchen is: Little Forest (2014, 2018)

16.50-17.00 Closing remarks

19.00 Speakers' dinner.