

Images at Work: Labour and the Moving Image

Nash Lecture Theatre, Strand Campus
King's College London
Thursday 22 June - Friday 23 June 2023



Organised by Laura Lux (KCL) and Georgina Le Breuilly (KCL)

Thursday 22 June 2023

09.00-09.30 **Registration and welcome** (coffee)

09.30-11.05 **Panel 1 - *Obsolescence, Extractivism, Remediation: Labour and Experimental Documentary***

Lorenz Hegel (PhD Candidate, Yale University)

Coal, Metal, Labor: Means and Ends of Production in Marx and Wang Bing's *West of the Tracks* (2002)

Lawrence Alexander (Visiting Researcher, Free University of Berlin)

Workers Leaving the Chapel: "Cross-Influence", Extractivism, and the Labours of Moving Image Excavation in Harun Farocki's *The Silver and the Cross* (2010)

Palita Chunsangchan (Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota)

Surveying Deaths of Single-Screen Theatres, Media Obsolescence and Labor Disposal in Bangkok through *Phantom of Illumination* (2017)

Jörg Markowitsch (Independent Researcher)

Dystopias of the working world: Katharina Gruzei's reinterpretation of 'Workers Leaving the Factory' [online]

11.10-12.25 **Panel 2 – *Working Bodies: Maternal labour, Caretaking and Nursing in Documentary***

Alice Bardan (Assistant Professor, Mount St. Mary's University)

Maternal Labor, Anxiety, and Precarity in Audre Pepin's Observational Documentary *A la vie/Sheroes* (2019)

Wiebe Copman (Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ghent University)

"... which is also work.": Caretaking and the Lyrical Mode in Ute Aurand and Maria Lang's *Der Schmetterling im Winter* (2006)

Laura Lux (PhD Candidate, King's College London)

The Body as a Factory: Surgical Images and the Labour of Nursing in Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Véréna Paravel's *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (2022)

12.30-13.30 **Lunch** (provided)

13.30-15.05 **Panel 3 - *Revolution and its Challenges: Unrest and Activism on Screen***

David Wilt (Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University)
The Proletariat and the Mexican Revolution in Mexican Cinema

Harrison Whitaker (PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge)
The End of Hollywood's Union Man

Sarah Hamblin (Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston)
The Crisis of Comfort: Post-Fordist Labour and Radical Politics in Satyajit Ray's
Calcutta Trilogy

Sarah Ann Wells (Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The International Women's Strike Film [online]

15.10-16.10 **Panel 4 – *Hidden Labour and Means of Production in Cinema***

Theodor Frisorger (PhD Candidate, University of Cologne)
Dennis Göttel (Junior professor, University of Cologne)
Televised Filmmaking: Early Making-of Films at the WDR

Joshua Schulze (PhD Candidate, University of Michigan)
Painted Sandals and Blistered Feet: The Production of *Sundown* (1941) and the
Racialized Labor of Hollywood Extras [online]

16.10-16.30 **Break** (coffee)

16.30-18.00 **Keynote – Salomé Aguilera Skvirsky**

20:00-21:30 **Screening – *Harun Farocki / Labour through the Decades***

[Close-Up Film Centre](#)

This free screening has been organised as a sister event to the conference. Separate registration is required. Due to the limited capacity of the cinema, tickets will only be available in advance and on a first-come-first-served basis. Conference registration does not guarantee admission.

Friday 23 June 2023

09.30-10.00 **Late Registration** (coffee)

10.00-11.00 **Panel 5 – *Precarity and Unrest in Contemporary French Cinema***

Temenuga Trifonova (Associate Professor, University College London)
L'emploi du temps: The New Landscape of Work and Struggle in Contemporary French Cinema

Francesco Sticchi (Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University)
Brizé-Lindon's Trilogy of Work

11.05-12.20 **Panel 6 – *From Early Automation to Globalisation: German Histories of Labour in Film***

Alex Fletcher (Associate Lecturer, University of the Arts London)
Representing Global Labour in Late Farocki

Stephan Hilpert (Macromedia University, Cologne)
Leaving the Factory: Christian Petzold's *Wolfsburg* (2003)

Nick Hodgin (Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University)
East German Documentaries: Love of Labour and Labour of Love

12.20-13.30 **Lunch** (provided)

13.30-14.45 **Panel 7 - *Digital Labour and Film: Breakdowns, Simulation, and Absence***

Nick Jones (Senior Lecturer, University of York)
Digital Work Rendered Visible: VFX Breakdowns and the Absent Artist

Carleigh Morgan (PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge)
Crowd Work: Animation and Automation in the Production of Simulated Crowds

Matthias Kispert (Research Assistant, University of Westminster)
Representing Digital Platform Work through Delegate Performance

14.50-16.05 Panel 8 – *The Ethics of Participation: Film Collectives and Participatory Filmmaking*

Yung-Hang Bruce Lai (Research Associate, King's College London)

Fredie Chan Ho Lun (independent documentary filmmaker)

Empowering Precarious Workers through Participatory Filmmaking: A Case Study of Fredie Chan's Independent Cinema in Hong Kong

Lorenzo Lazzari (PhD Candidate, University of Udine)

After Work: The Experience of Video-Nou in Can Serra, 1978

Liesje Baltussen (PhD Candidate, University of Antwerp)

Fugitive Cinema and the Working Class: Two Ways of Engaging

16.05-16.30 Break (coffee)

16.30-17.45 Panel 9 – *Theory and Method: Critical Approaches to Work on Screen*

Angelika Seppi (Visiting Professor, Bauhaus-University Weimar)

"Tout va bien": Class Struggle and the Limits of Cinematic Representation

Elisabeth Korn (Lecturer, University of Film and Television Munich)

Title TBD

Joshua Harold Wiebe (PhD Candidate, University of Toronto)

The Screen is Black: Labour and Negation [online]

17.45-18.00 Closing Remarks

Organised by Laura Lux (KCL) and Georgina Le Breuilly (KCL)

This conference is part of the German Screen Studies Network's DAAD-funded Promoting German Studies Project, "German Screen Studies Network (GSSN): Media, Cultures, Histories" led by Dora Osborne and Paul Flaig (German and Film Studies, University of St Andrews) in partnership with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DLLC) at King's College London.



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