

**Film as Film Today:**  
**On the Criticism and Theory of V. F. Perkins**

University of Warwick  
4-5 September 2018

Central Campus, Humanities Building, ground floor  
Plenary sessions: room H0.51 / Parallel panels: Humanities Studio (H0.76)

**TUESDAY, 4 Sept**

**10.30 - 11**     **Registration** (Humanities Building, Porter's Lodge)

**11 - 11.10**    **Symposium welcome** (room H0.51)

**11.10 - 11.55** **Introductory address** (H0.51)

Andrew Klevan (Oxford, UK)

Important Features in the Work of V. F. Perkins

**12 - 1.30**     **Session 1: Histories** (H0.51)

Chair: Charlotte Brunsdon (Warwick)

John Gibbs (Reading, UK)

Method and motivation: *Oxford Opinion*, *Movie*, and the early criticism of V.F. Perkins

Sarah Street (University of Bristol, UK)

Victor Perkins, Clive Donner and *Some People* (1962)

Robert B. Ray (Florida, USA)

*Film as Film*, the *Screen/Movie* debate, and Wittgenstein's case-by-case method

**1.30 - 2.20**    **LUNCH** (Humanities concourse)

**2.20 - 3.50**    **Session 2: Evaluation and criteria** (H0.51)

Chair: José Arroyo (Warwick)

Douglas Pye (Reading, UK)

Perkins, Gombrich and Criteria

Katerina Virvidaki (Hellenic Open University, Greece)

V.F. Perkins' "Credibility": An attempt to clarify the use of the concept

Pete Falconer (University of Bristol, UK)  
Understanding and judging horror movies

**3.50 – 4.15**    **BREAK (Humanities concourse)**  
Tea and coffee

**4.15 – 5.45**    **PARALLEL PANELS:**

**Session 3: Character and performer (H0.51)**

Chair: Catherine Constable (Warwick)

Alex Clayton (University of Bristol, UK)  
Notes on Casting, after Perkins

Miguel Gaggiotti (University of Bristol, UK)  
Insisting on failure: the value of clumsiness and awkwardness in film performance

Seth Watter (Hunter College, New York University, USA)  
Film and the hermeneutics of character

**Session 4: The ‘impurity’ of film (Humanities Studio [H0.76])**

Chair: Edward Lamberti (King’s College London)

James Taylor (University of Warwick, UK)  
Digital imaging technology and technique

Elizabeth Muñoz Huber (independent researcher)  
Hidden in plain sight: explorations of an intermedial vocabulary in VF Perkins’ work

Joshua Schulze (University of Warwick, UK)  
Perkins and the post-cinematic: understanding and judging the desktop film

**5.45 – 6.45**    **Keynote 1 (H0.51)**

Chair: Andrew Klevan (Oxford)

George Toles (Manitoba, Canada)  
The World of the Film and the World Particle in the Criticism of Victor Perkins

**7 – 8.00**        **Drinks reception (Chancellor’s Suite, Rootes Social Building)**

**8.00**            **Conference dinner (Chancellor’s Suite)**

## WEDNESDAY, 5 September

### 9 – 10 **Keynote 2 (H0.51)**

Chair: Douglas Pye (Reading)

Laura Mulvey (Birkbeck College, University of London, UK)

Re-thinking Max Ophuls: A post-Perkins view

### 10 – 11.30 **Session 5: Evaluation and judgment (H0.51)**

Chair: Tom Brown (King's College London)

Dominic Lash (University of Bristol, UK)

Why *this* how? V.F. Perkins and the evaluation of function

Leo Robson (independent researcher)

“It is understandable...,” or *Why* is What: on the uses of empathy in Perkins's critical thought

Lara Perski (Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

Questioning credibility

### 11.30 – 11.55 **BREAK (Humanities concourse)**

Tea and coffee

### 11.55 – 12.55 **PARALLEL PANELS:**

#### **Session 6: Perkins and politics (H0.51)**

Chair: Alastair Phillips (Warwick)

Alan Lovell (independent researcher)

What do we talk about when we talk about film?

Leighton Grist (University of Winchester, UK)

Revisiting “Must we say what they mean?” V. F. Perkins, film criticism, and the political

#### **Session 7: Beyond interpretation (Humanities Studio [H0.76])**

Chair: James MacDowell (Warwick)

Lucy Fife Donaldson (University of St. Andrews, UK)

“The moment that made me smile”: Affect, empathy, texture

Hoi Lun Law (University of Bristol, UK)  
The pertinence of significance

**12.55 – 1.55** **LUNCH** (Humanities concourse)

**1.55 – 3.25** **Session 8: Movies and other media** (H0.51)

Chair: Rachel Moseley (Warwick)

Christopher Holliday (King's College London, UK)  
“A totally controlled vision”: V.F. Perkins on animation

James Walters (University of Birmingham, UK)  
Perkins and Television

Timotheus Vermeulen (University of Oslo, Norway)  
Where else could the world be?

**3.25 – 3.50** **BREAK** (Humanities concourse)  
Tea and coffee

**3.50 – 5.20** **Session 9: Role and philosophy of criticism** (H0.51)

Chair: Edward Gallaferri

Charles Warren (Boston/Harvard University, USA)  
The integrity of film: Victor Perkins and some cousins in aesthetics.

William Rothman (University of Miami, USA)  
*Film as Film* and *The World Viewed*

Murray Pomerance (Ryerson University, Canada)  
Upstairs, downstairs: Victor Perkins and Nicholas Ray's domesticity

**5.30 – 6.30** **Keynote 3** (H0.51)

Chair: Richard Dyer (King's College London)

Adrian Martin (Monash University, Australia)  
What to look for in a film? (And how to know when you've found it?)

**6.30** **Farewell!**