

FILM/TV DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



The Cinema Projectionist

The Cinema Projectionist is a digital archive and website on the history of cinema projection in Britain developed by Warwick's Projection Project team of academics (**Charlotte Brunson, Jon Burrows, Michael Pigott, Rick Wallace** and **Claire Jesson**) researching the switch of cinemas from 35mm film to digital projection. It is a digital collection of audio recordings of the memories of projectionists, of sounds of the projection box and of 35mm film, plus hundreds of photos of the projection boxes of cinemas from all over the UK from the 1910s to the 1960s. It also contains links to the special projection issue of the *Journal of British Cinema and Television* written and edited by the team as well as a 'virtual projection box' which is an online exhibit you can use to explore the projection box and discover the functionalities of various bits of equipment as well as other details about the workspace of the projectionist.

Visit <https://cinemaprojectionist.co.uk/>. We welcome current and former projectionists, students, researchers, journalists, historians and archivists to use The Cinema Projectionist and to give us feedback or ask questions about the collection. So feel free to use it and to spread the word far and wide.

WELCOME!

Hello all, and welcome to the fourth issue of the departmental newsletter.

Communication

A way for students and staff to share what they've been doing and advertise upcoming events.

Collaboration

To help UG and PG students to get to know each other better and find ways to work together.

Contributions

Please email any contributions to **Julie Lobalzo Wright** at j.wright.4@warwick.ac.uk



LabCut workshop:

Matt Denny was involved in a filmmaking workshop organised by PhD students in life sciences (Cansu Kuey, Charlotte Gruender and Patrick Capel). It was an intensive three day event taking place over 13th - 15th June open to scientists working on human health, as well as other academics and creative artists. Participants were split into teams and worked together to produce short science communication films. Matt provided a session on understanding film form and style and also chaired the screenings and Q&A on the final day. The films produced by the teams can be seen on the LabCut YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAbqF0XLITFOCYHTKQ0Chw>

Reel Talk - a new departmental blog:

A team of undergraduates from each year group has been working hard this term to create a blog where all of our undergraduates can showcase their work. We're excited to announce that the blog, 'Reel Talk', is now live, and in its first few days received over 100 hits! You can check out Reel Talk here: <https://reeltalk0.movie.blog/>

In the first post, the blog's editorial team begin to introduce themselves by discussing their favourite films of the last decade. The rest of the editorial team will introduce themselves in a second post, coming soon!

The editorial team would love to hear from students who are interested in contributing to the blog. Posts will typically be 500-1000 words in length and could be, for example, a review, think piece or material that has been adapted from some of your coursework. As a contributor, you would get to work alongside the editorial team in order to publish the best possible piece for yourself. You can pitch a contribution here:

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/film/staff/denny/reel_talk_pitch
- James Taylor

Keep up to date with the department's social media!

If you have any news to share, email our social media officer **James Taylor** at j.taylor.29@warwick.ac.uk

Twitter: @warwickfilmtv

Facebook: Film and TV Studies, University of Warwick



The Japanese Cinema Book:

Alastair Phillips has recently completed work on *The Japanese Cinema Book* for the British Film Institute. The book provides a new and comprehensive survey of one of the world's most fascinating and widely admired filmmaking regions. In terms of its historical coverage, broad thematic approach and the significant international range of its authors, it will be the largest and most wide-ranging publication of its kind to date.

The Japanese Cinema Book is designed to appeal to the largest possible readership and includes an unusually plural range of critical perspectives based on the expertise of established and emerging scholars and critics. As such, it provides a groundbreaking picture of the different ways in which Japanese cinema may be understood as a local, regional, national, transnational and global phenomenon.

Ranging from internationally renowned directors such as Akira Kurosawa to neglected popular genres such as the film musical and encompassing topics such as ecology, spectatorship, home-movies, colonial history and relations with Hollywood and Europe, *The Japanese Cinema Book* presents a set of new, and often surprising, perspectives on Japanese film.

The book's innovative multi-focal approach combines general surveys of a particular historical topic or critical approach with various curated themes at a more micro level. It argues there is no single fixed Japanese cinema, but instead a fluid and varied field of Japanese filmmaking cultures that continue to exist in a dynamic relationship with other cinemas and regions.

The Japanese Cinema Book looks set to redefine the field for a new generation of film scholars around the world. As such, Alastair and Hideaki have dedicated the book to all their students, past and present.

Outreach project:

Matt Denny was involved in a collaborative outreach project with Classics and History of Art for the Sutton Trust Summer School that took place from Monday 29th July through to Friday 2nd August. In our sessions, we focused on representations of the body from Classical civilisations, through the use of the Classical body in art and right up to contemporary Superhero films. The summer school is for year 12 students and aims to give a taste of life as a first year undergraduate. The Sutton Trust Summer School will take place again this summer (2020).

Alumni update: **Joshua Schulze**

While I was studying for my MA at Warwick, I applied to 7 PhD programs, in both the UK and the USA. Around March of this year, I received enough offers to make a decision, and decided that the University of Michigan was the best place for me to continue my studies. Since arriving in late August and taking the necessary few weeks to settle in to a different country, I began classes, which still felt like being thrown straight into the deep end! I'm currently finishing coursework for all three that I'm taking - one on theory and method, another on television history (for which I got to complete a project on the history of television in my home country, South Africa), and finally a class from the comparative literature department on contemporary theory, touching on things like new materialism, biopolitics, animal studies, critical race theory, and, my personal favourite, eco-criticism! In addition, I've also been lucky enough to do research assistant work with Daniel Herbert for his new book on New Line Cinema. Moving to study abroad is not an easy experience, and so many things work differently here. At the same time, everyone has been incredibly welcoming and charitable since I've arrived, which has really helped me to make enough time and space for my studies.

- **Joshua Schulze, Film & TV alumni**

The Practice of Film Criticism:

This term, third year students have had the opportunity to take part in **José Arroyo's** Practice of Film Criticism module, where we studied a variety of forms of film criticism and, as the name suggests, put them into practice. While the centerpiece of this module is the creation of a video essay on each student's topic of choice, other highlights have included recording a podcast episode with José, and writing reviews for our chosen films, both of which were published on the student run and curated blog, **Depth of Field** (depthoffield412526933.wordpress.com). Each student also screened their films and held a half hour seminar afterwards. In Week 7 film critic and historian Pamela Hutchinson, who writes for *The Guardian* and *Sight & Sound*, and also wrote the BFI Film Classics book on *Pandora's Box* (1929), came to talk to us about working as a freelance film critic. It was great to hear from a prolific critic working in the industry and gave us a good idea of what we could expect if we were to go into film criticism. José's module has been a fantastic experience and we are very excited to screen our video essays at the end of the year.

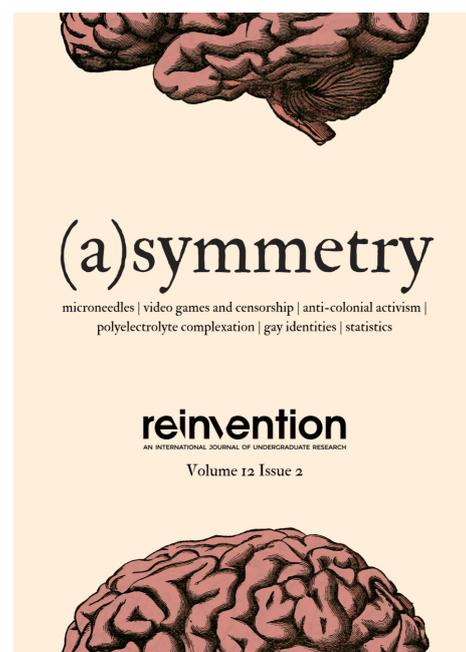
-**Georgia Smithies, 3rd Year Film Studies student**

Reinvention Journal:

Last year I took on the role of Assistant Editor at Warwick's international interdisciplinary undergraduate research journal, *Reinvention*. It's a fantastic publication positioned within IATL at Warwick, and run in collaboration with Monash University in Australia, and is one of the leading and longest running undergraduate journals in the world! It's been a really amazing opportunity to get involved in academic research from a publishing perspective, and given me insight into the process - from selecting papers to peer review. Coming to university to study Film, I didn't think I would be coming anywhere near papers talking about nanopore sequencing or orchids' response to pollination (obviously we get quite a few papers from social sciences too, but these aren't quite as dramatic to a film student). This role has pushed me to really step out of my comfort zone and also learn about research practices in other fields, which, in an increasingly interdisciplinary academic world is always useful.

This year I have been promoted to Chief Editor and am currently managing our team of Assistant Editors both in Warwick and Monash, and look forward to writing my first editorial for our next issue in April! In the meantime, I would really recommend any undergraduates interested in pursuing academic research to submit to the journal and keep an eye out on new roles. We've also just published our new issue in October which can be found here: <https://reinventionjournal.org/>

- **Polina Zelmanova, 3rd Year Film Studies student**



Research Seminars for Spring & Summer:

Spring 2020

Week 3: Wednesday 22nd January 2020- Dr Jennifer Coates (Leeds University): 'Feelings Without Words: Growing Up In the Cinemas of Postwar Japan, 1945-1968'

Week 5: Wednesday 5th February 2020 - Dr Clive Nwonka (LSE): ' "Top Boy" and the allure of black criminality for UK Public Service Broadcasting'

Week 7: Wednesday 19th February 2020 - Prof Karen Pinkus (Cornell University): 'Thinking about Automation: Machines and Labour in Italian Cinema of the 1960s'

Summer 2020

Week 2: Date TBC - Professor Kamilla Elliott (Lancaster University) on Adaptation

Week 4: Wednesday 13th May 2020 - Graduate Research Day with speaker to be confirmed

The talks will be held in A0.28 and will be followed by a drinks reception. All staff and students are welcome.

Have a great winter break!

Newsletter editors:

Polina Zelmanova (3rd Year Film Studies) & **Iris Li** (MA Film Studies)