

Eighth Tel Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema and Television Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS

Suspenseful Times and the Moving Image

Tel Aviv, Israel, 8-10 June 2010
CFP deadline: 15 January 2010

The Eighth Tel Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema and Television Studies will focus on the notion of suspense and the feeling of being suspended – temporally, spatially, or politically. How can film and television help us to rethink pausing, deferring, procrastinating, and being trapped between realms? How do audiovisual texts confront tension, stress, the inability to act, repetition, and trauma? In times of woe, what recourse can the moving image offer to those whose hopes are perpetually frustrated and who are nevertheless unwilling to give up on the future?

The Department of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University invites scholars to submit proposals that critically explore the moving image and state of suspense and being suspended. Presentations may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- The moving image and the experience of suspense; apprehension and risk; being suspended in-between; waiting; anticipation; postponement; refusing or longing for closure;
- States of exception; deferring as policy; creation of a people no-longer and not-yet; inspiring and losing hope; millennialism; apocalyptic, utopian, and dystopian images; prophecies; agency and fate; wished-for and uninvited specters;
- Reflections on stasis, becoming, progress and decadence, staying the course, and returning in the moving image and its histories; the movement-image in crisis; finding and losing one's bearings;
- How and under what terms can experiences of suspense be pleasurable, seductive, gratifying, frustrating, disappointing, undesirable, unbearable, thrilling, or sublime? Why do viewers seek suspense?
- How do film, television, and digital media create anxious viewers and cue hope, fear, or anxiety? How are suspense and tension created in audiovisual configurations and in cinematic narratives? Who are masters of suspense?

- Time and temporality in film theory; ambiguity, indefiniteness, and uncertainty; suspension of disbelief; third or obtuse meanings;
- The timely and the untimely in moving-image history; coming before one's time; the epoch-making text or medium; the emergent and the residual; epigones; following and being followed; being suspended between media, schemata, and paradigms;
- Suspending, pausing, rewinding, fast-forwarding, pre- and re-viewing as theoretical tools, spectator activities, or filmmaking practice; delayed cinema; narrative, visual, acoustic, and thematic interstices; teasers and spoilers; remakes, mash-ups, reruns, and redistributions; cliffhangers; "to be continued."

All sessions will be held in English.

Please submit an abstract (up to 300 words) and short CV to the colloquium program committee at cineconf@post.tau.ac.il by 15 January 2010.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by mid February 2010.

The Tel Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema and Television Studies traditionally offers an opportunity for scholars from around the world to meet and discuss timely themes from a variety of theoretical approaches. Recent colloquium guests include Daniel Dayan, Linda Dittmar, Thomas Elsaesser, Kristian Feigelson, Anton Kaes, Gertrud Koch, Bill Nichols, Michael Renov, Philip Rosen, Noa Steimatsky, Günter Thomas, and Janet Walker. Selected colloquia papers have been published in the journal *Framework* and we intend to publish selected papers from this year's colloquium in a refereed journal or academic press.

Colloquium participants are also invited to attend screenings and events at the Tel Aviv 13th International Student Film Festival which will take place 5-12 June 2010.

Colloquium Committee: Ilan Avisar, Nitzan Ben-Shaul, Mihal Friedman, Nurith Gertz, Boaz Hagin, Judd Ne'eman, Sandra Meiri, Raz Yosef, Anat Zanger
Colloquium Managers: Maya Gayer and Itsik Rosen

Website: <http://www.tau.ac.il/~cineconf/>

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