



Film and television studies conference call for papers

CFP deadline: February 37, 2008

Conference dates: June 3-5, 2008

Just Images Ethics and the Cinematic

“Ce n’est pas une image juste, c’est juste une image” – Jean-Luc Godard

What role should a turn to ethics play in the making, viewing, and study of moving images? What relation, if any, exists between ethics and aesthetics? Has the turn to politics, identity, social construction, and historical responsibility also been a turn away from questions of media specificity? Have we neglected poetics, indexicality, and the unique materiality, spatiality, and temporality of the moving image? Would a renewed salience of such theory entail the abandonment of moral, activist oriented media production or study?

The Department of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University will host the Seventh Tel-Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema and Television Studies, June 3-5, 2008. We would like to invite scholars to submit proposals that critically explore the relationship between moving images and ethics. Presentations may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Responsibility, engagement, and political activism in the making, viewing, archiving, and theorizing of moving images;
- Truths and falsehoods in the moving image and their ethical significance; documentary and fiction, reality TV; traces and indexicality; staging events for the screen; is the narrative in moving images an ethical construct?
- The performative aspects of visual and scholarly texts; in what way can they be “interventions”?
- The ethics of camera positioning; turning the camera towards and away from a subject; watching visual texts or refusing to look;
- Alterity and the moving image; the significance of subject-filmmaker-viewer complicity or cooperation; telling one’s own story; the ethics of an intrusive gaze and looking at the lives of others; the ethics of watching the “pain of others” (Sontag) in photography, film, and new media; the ethics of violent images from which the viewers cannot escape; the ethics of making one’s life and death public;
- Ethics and the cinematic apparatus; time, space, and the poetics of the moving image and their ethical implications;

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

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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

THE YOLANDA AND DAVID KATZ
FACULTY OF THE ARTS
FILM & T.V. DEPARTMENT



אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

הפקולטה לאמנויות
ע"ש יולנדה ודוד כץ
החוג לקולנוע וטלוויזיה

- Testimony, memory, shame, and guilt in films, television, and other media;
- The Act, the Event, and their foreclosure in cinematic representation;
- The ethics of making and remaking visual texts: artistic license, freedom, control, and accountability; propaganda, pedagogy, independence and disinterestedness; censorship and creativity; rights on images, plagiarism, piracy;
- Can and should ethics be formally defined? Do affect, empathy, and identification have a privileged role in ethics? Can visual texts contribute to such ethical projects?
- How do certain idiosyncratic uses of the term "ethics" (Deleuze's Spinoza, Lacan, Levinas) relate to moving images? What role can the media play in expanding ethics beyond inter-human relations (such as environmental and animal ethics)?
- Auditory and visual renderings of the sublime, the obscene, the abject, the traumatic, the sacred, and pain and suffering; filming the intimate and the secret and the ways their unrestricted display might reconfigure the relation between the private and the public;
- Turns and returns, visions and revisions, divisions and demarcations, exclusions and exceptions in society, moving images, and scholarship; are there aesthetic/ethical corpuses or eras in visual texts and in theory? Who or what is exempt from ethical scrutiny? Is there an "ethical turn" in media studies?

Sessions will be held in English.

Please email proposals to:

cineconf@post.tau.ac.il

by February 27, 2008

Selected papers from the Sixth Tel-Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema and Television Studies are forthcoming in *Framework*, 49-1 (Spring 2008). We will strive to publish selected papers from this year's conference in a refereed journal or academic press.

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