

Panel organizers: Dr. Markus Heide (Humboldt-Universität Berlin)

PANEL: Cosmopolitan Film Cultures

From the Lumière Brothers' global tour in 1896 to direct-to-DVD filmmaking, film has always been a global medium. The images and sounds of cinema were one of the defining cultural forms of the twentieth century, giving shape to our collective and individual imaginings and generating unique encounters with the social, cultural and political experiences of others around the globe. In this new century, cinematic forms continue to circulate globally. However, the new material conditions in which they are produced and transmitted have had an impact on what cinema does (or can do), especially in terms of their political potential. The panel *Cosmopolitan Film Cultures* examines the communicative possibilities of film at the current historical moment of globalization, looking both at the possibilities that film imagines for itself *and* the degree of its actual impact on broader social developments.

This panel will examine the narrative capacities of cinema today, focusing on the way in which contemporary film negotiates and engages in border issues and human rights. These issues in particular seem to have come to constitute the cosmopolitan dimension of cultural and cinematographic production today, as human rights discourses draw both on cosmopolitanism's productive and strictly conservative deployments in the articulation of global concepts of democracy. While dealing with different topics, the papers will ask: What are the recurrent themes and links within and between different films concerned with the (trans)nation, with world citizenship, and/or cosmopolitan film ethics and aesthetics? How do particular films question and challenge received notions of cosmopolitanism? Is cosmopolitan filmmaking simply another commodity in the production and circulation of global capital? What kind of critical interventions can be expected from cosmopolitan film? And how does its engagement with humanitarianism and human rights discourse globalize different and at times contradictory notions of what it assumes to be the universal, namely the status of the human as such?

Please send your abstract of approximately 200 words no later than December 31, 2008.

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