

Ritual as Cinema, Cinema as Ritual: Points of View from Visual Anthropology

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Introduction

19. February

Part 1: Visual Anthropology

The aim of this part is for students to get a basic understanding of histories of and issues in visual anthropology. Each student will send in a brief summary of a chapter from a assigned book every week. There will be three books, that is not everybody will read and summarize the same text. The reason is to get a more varied understanding of issues we will discuss in the second part of the course.

Bibliography:

Grimshaw, Anna. 2001. *The Ethnographer's Eye*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

MacDougall, David. 2006. *The Corporeal Image: Film, Ethnography, and the Senses*. Princeton – Oxford: Princeton University Press. (except Part II: Images of Childhood)

Pink, Sarah. 2009. *Doing Sensory Ethnography*. Los Angeles: Sage Publishing.

Each book is 8 chapters + an introduction. Thus you will have to send in an abstract (300 words) of a chapter every week. You will be done about a month before the semester is over. The last weeks of the semester you will have time to think about 3 questions/topics for discussion in class. These you will send in one week before the end of the semester. We will discuss them during our intensive week.

You can of course send in the summaries at once earlier (but not later), if you wish.

Part 2: Cinema and Ritual

21. May – 25. May
17:25 – 19:10

During the intensive week, we will turn our attention to the relationship between cinema and rituals. There will be short readings assigned for most days. In class we will discuss the topics, make sure we understand the texts and watch mostly ethnographic films. You can read and prepare the texts during the semester, if you wish.

Tuesday, 21.5.
WORD/SIGN/IMAGE

Taylor, Lucien. 1996. "Iconophobia." *Transition* 69: 64–88.
Mitchell, W.J.T. 2005. "There Are No Visual Media." *Journal of Visual Culture* 4.2: 257–266.

Viewing:
Rouch, Jean. *Les maîtres fous*. France, 1955, 29 min.
Trinh, T. Min-ha. *Reassemblage: From the Firelight to the Screen*. United States, 1983, 40 min.

Wednesday, 22.5.
RITUALIZATION, BEYOND MEANING

Hollywood, Amy. 2002. "Performativity, citationality, ritualization." *History of Religions*, 42.2: 93–115.
Kapferer, Bruce. 2004. "Ritual Dynamics and Virtual Practice: Beyond Representation and Meaning." *Social Analysis* 48: 35–54.

Viewing:
Carasco, Raymonde. *Tarahumaras '78*. France, 1979, 30 min.

Thursday, 23.5.
TIME AND OPENNESS

Pandian, Anand. 2011. "Reel Time: Ethnography and the Historical Ontology of the Cinematic Image." *Screen* 52.2: 193–214.

Viewing:
Towira, Pimpaka. ๓๓, Thailand, 2012, 15 min.
Tsai, Ming-Liang. 无无眠. Taiwan – Hong Kong, 2015, 34 min.
Wang, Shao-Gang. 惡水淨土. Taiwan, 2017, 7 min.
Weerasethakul, Apichatpong. *Luminous People*. Thailand – Portugal, 2007, 15 min.
Doan na Champassak, Tiane & Jean Dubrel. *Natpwe, le festin des esprits*. France, 2012, 31 min.
Itō, Takashi. *GRIM*. Japan, 1985, 7 min.

Friday, 24.5.

SPECULATIVE COSMOLOGIES AND RITUALS

Heilman, Jeremy. 2015. "Mock-Doc Pedagogy and the Ethnographic Unconscious – Ben Rivers' Slow Action." *Spectator* 35.1: 16–24.

Dumitru, Luciana. "River Rites: Interview with Ben Russell,"

<https://bieff.wordpress.com/2013/12/12/river-rites-interview-with-ben-russell/>

Débordements. "Ben Russell, 2012: Experiencing the World and (Mis)understanding Culture"

<http://www.debordements.fr/Ben-Russell-2012>

Viewing:

Rivers, Ben. *Slow Action*. United Kingdom, 2010, 40 min.

Rivers, Ben. *Ah Liberty!*. United Kingdom, 2008, 20 min.

Rivers, Ben. *Origin of the Species*. United Kingdom, 2008, 16 min.

Rivers, Ben. *The Creation As We Saw It*. United Kingdom, 2012, 14 min.

Russell, Ben. *Let Us Persevere in What We Have Resolved Before We Forget*. France – United States, 2013, 20 min.

Russell, Ben. *Black and White Trypps Number 3*. United States, 2007, 12 min.

Russell, Ben. *Trypps #6 (Malobi)*. United States, 2009, 12 min.

Russell, Ben. *River Rites*. United States – Suriname, 2011, 10 min.

Russell, Ben. *Greetings to the Ancestors*. United States – South Africa, 2015, 29 min.

Saturday, 25.5.

POP CULTURE (XL)

Marks, Laura. 2011. "Can Cinema Slow the Flow of Blood?" *Senses & Society* 6.3: 350–357.

Wilkinson, Maryn. 2018. "On the Depths of Surface: Strategies of Surface Aesthetics in The Bling Ring, Spring Breakers and Drive." *Film-Philosophy* 22.2: 222–239.

Viewing:

Arnold, Andrea. *American Honey*. United States – United Kingdom, 2016, 163 min.

Korine, Harmony. *Spring Breakers*. United States, 2012, 90 min.