

Film-Philosophy Conference 2025

📅 23–25 June 2025 📍 UM Valletta Campus



L-Università
ta' Malta



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



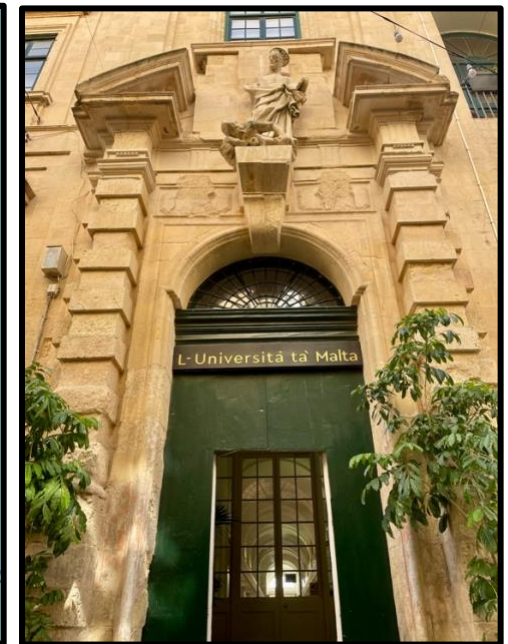
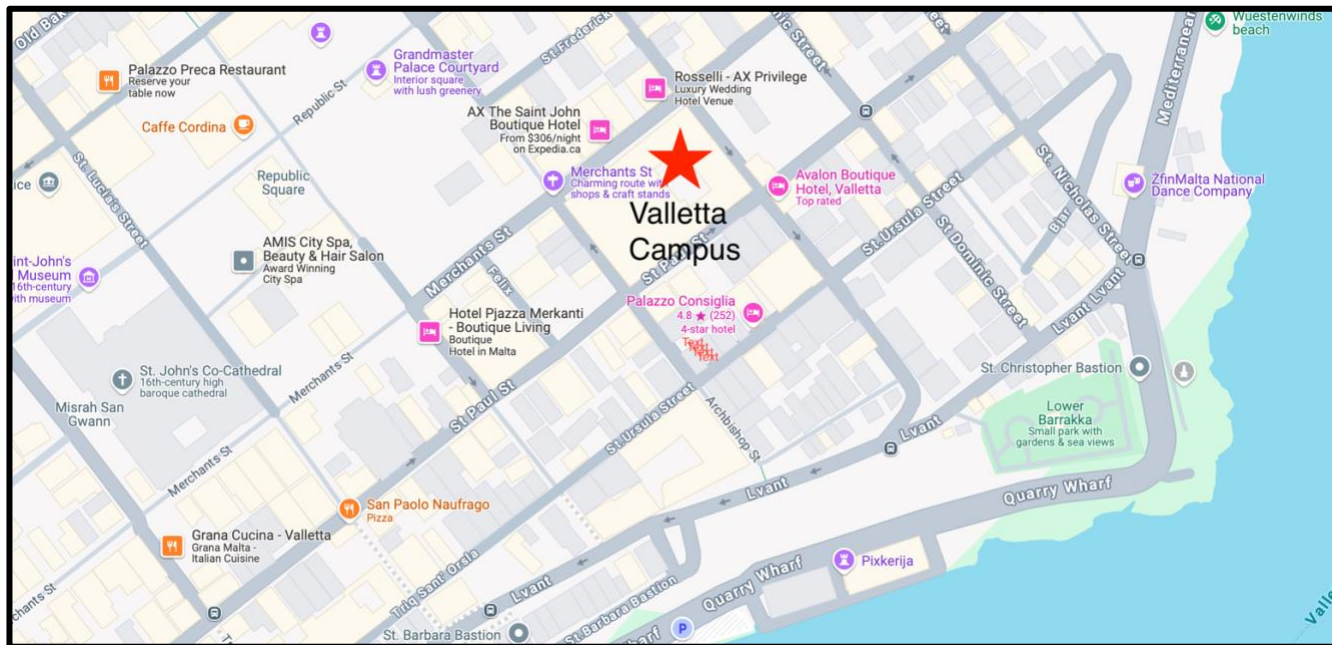


CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference is at the **VALLETTA CAMPUS** of the University of Malta, located in Valletta. **DO NOT GO** to the Main Campus in Msida (unless you want to visit it).

The Valletta Campus does not have a street number or proper address, but it will show up in Google Maps (as “Valletta Campus”). It is located between **Merchant Street** and **St. Paul Street**, and it can be entered from either one.

When looking for it, the Valletta Campus is not a “campus” per se, but one building. It is directly beside a church (Oratory of the Immacolata).



Entrance on Merchant St



DAY 1 – MONDAY JUNE 23

8:00 – 9:00

WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION First Floor Foyer

9:00-9:15

OPENING REMARKS Magna Aula Auditorium

Gloria Lauri-Lucente, Professor and Director of MA in Film Studies, University of Malta

Mark Cauchi, Conference Director, Associate Professor of Humanities, York University (Canada)

9:15 – 10:30

KEYNOTE Magna Aula Auditorium

MAY ADADOL INGAWANIJ

เม อาดาดล อิงกะวณิจ

Professor of Cinematic Arts, University of Westminster (UK)

“Stories of Animistic Cinema”

Moderator: Homay King

(Chair & Professor, History of Art, Bryn Mawr College, USA)

10:30 – 10:45

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

10:45 - 12:15

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
POST-FILM-PHILOSOPHY	ANIMIST & BUDDHIST FILM-PHILOSOPHIES	FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY
Moderator: Silvia Ruzanka	Moderator: Arnika Fuhman	Moderator: Marguerite La Caze
DAVID H. FLEMING, “Waking/Examined-After/Lives: Hyperphilosophy, Later-Links, and the rem[AI]ns of Film-Philosophy”	XIAOXIAN YE, “Animism, Mimesis, and Cinema as a Modern Magic: Re-enchanting the Material World through Art and Electricity”	JERONIMO AYESTA, “Opening Interior Worlds: Image Schemas and Female Friendship in Rohmer’s <i>Conte de printemps</i> ”
MICHAEL GODDARD, “Countering Chaotic Hyperstimulation with Noise: From Nonlinear Postcinematic Experience to Audiovisual Noise and Drones”	STEPHEN TURNER, “Cinema of Restitution: <i>Dahomey</i> (2024) to <i>Te Rua</i> (1991)”	NECDET YILDIZ, “Understanding Friendship, Love and <i>Gelassenheit</i> : <i>The Banshees of Inisherin</i> ”
YU YANG, “Post-Cinematic Time: Crisis of Continuity, Temporal Splitting, and Presentism”	QIN YUAN, “Buddha and Beast: Reimagining Tibetan Animal Temporality and Interspecies Geography in Pema Tseden’s <i>Snow Leopard</i> ”	ADRIÁN SÁNCHEZ MARTÍNEZ, “The Community in Scene: Farley/Roxburgh’s <i>Magic Spot</i> (2022) and the Relational Aesthetics of DIY Genre Cinema”

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
THINKING BLACK SCREENS	EARLY FILM-PHILOSOPHY	STATES OF SLOW & FLOW
Moderator: Benjamin Goff	Moderator: Oskar Ban Brejc	Moderator: Kelly Rappleye
KAY TRACEY, “Media Portrayal of Blackness in Cinema”	GLORIA LAURI-LUCENTE, “The Visual Philosophy of Cinema: Virginia Woolf and Luigi Pirandello”	ZHENIA MAHDI-NAU, “A Phenomenological Study of Peak-Experience and Flow States Through Embodied Screendance Filmmaking” Preceded by a short dance demonstration by Maeve McCreedy
MATTHEW HOLTMEIER, “Against (Industrial) Liberalism: A Cinematic Critique by Melvin van Peebles”	FU ZICHUN, “Revisiting the Dimensions of Reality: The Thoughts of Object in Jean Epstein’s Philosophy of Film”	YANGYANG XU, “Drowsiness: A state of “rejection” towards Slow Cinema”
	LARA PERSKI, “Discursive Origins of Cinematic Beauty: The Concept of Beauty in Early Thinking about Film”	

FILMS ON LOOP	
Magna Aula Auditorium	Upper & Lower Corridors
UMALTA STUDENT FILMS	MAGNA ŻMIEN

When keynotes are not taking place, short films by second-year students in the MA in Film Studies at the University of Malta, made with the support of the Malta Film Commission, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta (2018-2025).

Ongoing on each floor of Valletta Campus, there will be a monitor showing a Malta-related video loop by [Magna Żmien](#).

12:15 – 1:30

LUNCH

First Floor Foyer

1:30 - 3:00

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
POSTSECULAR CINEMA BEYOND EUROPE	J'AI: SUBJECTIVITY & AI	QUEERING FILIATIONS
Moderator: Joe Kickasola	Moderator: David Fleming	Moderator: Jack Pocaluyko
BENJAMIN GOFF, "Beyond Eurocentricity: Double Consciousness and Postsecular Aesthetics in American Film"	SHUTONG FAN, "Michel Serres and the Exploration of the Materiality of 'Actors' in the AI Era"	KILLIAN O'DWYER, "The Corps-à-corps of Queer Love: Sex with Hegel and Derrida"
HAOTIAN (WALDEN) WU, "A Place that Nobody Knows (2004): Hirokazu Kore-eda's Ironic Existentialism"	JUSTIN COSNER, "Before Long, It'll Blend Right in with Your Own Thoughts': Panoptic AI and the Algorithmization of Subjectivity in Psycho-Pass"	ANDREA GRAVINA, "Addressing Korea's Colonial Past: <i>The Handmaiden</i> as Postcolonial Cinema"
JOHN CARUANA, "Spectators of Life: Disenchantment and the 'Chullachaqui' Motif in <i>Embrace of the Serpent</i> "	SILVIA RUZANKA, "AI, Being, and Care in Deep Space"	ARNIKA FURHMAN, "Karma and Queerness: Notes from Thai Cinema"

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
EXPANDED CINEMA & THE AVANT-GARDE	BACKGROUNDS IN FOCUS	HYDRO- & MYCELLIAL-POETICS
Moderator: Linnea Saaranen	Moderator: Daniel Vella	Moderator: Richard O'Sullivan
EVE O'DONOGHUE, "The Nothing-Field: Constructing Nothingness in the American Avant-Garde (1962-69)"	TIAGO DE LUCA, "The Partiality of Perception: Towards a Phenomenology of the Background in the Latin American Cinema of Domestic Work"	KELLY RAPPLEYE, "Hydropoetics as Mnemonic Topographies: Tracing the Hydrological Gaze in Contemporary Scottish Artists' Films"
SEAN LOPEZ, "Excavating the Imaginary: Expanded Cinema as Media Archaeological Practice"	GLEN NORTON, "Does the Screen Have Horizons? Rereading Deleuze's Reading of Merleau-Ponty"	EVY VARSAMOPOULOU, "Groundwater, Waterfalls, Canals and Cisterns: from the Eco-Gothic Cinematic Imaginary to the Political Struggle for Non-Human Personhood Status to Rivers, Lakes and Cenoteses"

GIULIA RHO, “ <i>Écriture Féline</i> : The Time-Space of The Cat in Carolee Schneemann’s Films”	MARIO CORDINA, “A Daedalean Space in <i>Last Year at Marienbad</i> (1961) and Deleuzian Spatial Philosophy”	GIULIA RAINOLDI, “Mycelium, Hyphae, Entanglements: Thinking Immersive Spectatorship with Fungi and Feminist Materialism”
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3:00 – 3:15

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

3:15 – 4:45

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
DEATH-IMAGES	PROVINCIALIZING EUROPEAN FILM-PHILOSOPHY	FUNNY THOUGHT
Moderator: Liam Drake	Moderator: Stephen Turner	Moderator: Jeff Scheible
SUSANA VIEGAS, “Death-Images: Gilles Deleuze on Alain Resnais’ ‘Lazarean’ Characters”	HOMAY KING, “Going West from Buster Keaton to Jia Zhangke”	NEIL WASHBURNE, “The Challenges of (Comedian) Comedy for Film-Philosophy: W.C.Fields’ <i>It’s A Gift</i> (1934) and <i>The Bank Dick</i> (1940) through a Pippanian Lens”
LUCAS FERRAÇO NASSIF, “Iron Becomes Vulnerable Flesh: Conceptualizing the Death-Image in <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i> ”	FEDERICA GOBBI, “Beyond the Myth of Love in Wong Kar Wai’s Cinema”	SULGI LIE, “Come Walking: Adorno’s Slapstick”
MARCO GROSOLI, “With and Without You. Resnais’s New Lazarean Subject in <i>Love unto Death</i> (1984)”	LUDO BEAU DE ROO, “Cinema Beyond the Colonial Frame: Elemental Ground, Film-Philosophy, and Temporal Resistance”	SIMIN DOLATKHAH, “Deadpan Aesthetics: the “Abject Subject” and “Silent Witnesses” in the Films of Aki Kaurismäki and Roy Andersson”
VASCO BAPTISTA MARQUES, “Difference and Repetition: The Reconfiguration of Death and the Lazarean Subject in Alain Resnais’s <i>You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet</i> ”		

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
MUNICIPAL & NATIONAL CINEMAS	CINECOLOGY	VIRTUAL SESSION: PERSIAN FILM-PHILOSOPHY 1
Moderator: Fatma Serdaroglu	Moderator: Zhenia Mahdi-Nau	Moderator: Sajad Sotoudeh
ANNA DOYLE,	RICHARD O’SULLIVAN,	PARSA NAJI,

“Yearning for a Forgotten Beauty: Sergei Paradjanov and Yuri Illienko’s Filmic Journeys to Ukraine”	“Placing the Gaze: Environmental Experience and the Landscape View. A practice research investigation through the production of <i>Elenydd</i> (2025)”	“Cinema Under Watch: Censorship, Resistance, and the Foucauldian Panopticon in Iranian Film”
QIYU WANG, “The Revival of Tradition in Modernity: Post-Soviet Kyrgyz National Identity in the Films of Aktan Abdykalykov”	PEYMAN NAEEMI, “Eco-Cinema: Reimagining Environmental Storytelling for Activism”	NIUSHA HATEFINIA, “Mirrors, Screens, and the Imaginal Realm: A Persian-Islamic Perspective on Cinematic Ontology”
TIRNA CHATTERJEE, “Anarchiving Calcutta : Reckoning with Cinema and the City through Cinema”	PRIYANKA SINGH, “Exploitation of ‘She’ and ‘Sherni’: Environmental Justice, Eco-Feminism and Marginalisation in <i>Sherni</i> ”	

EVENING

GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL EVENT

Pay your own way

7:30 pm

LA BOTTEGA (Bar & Restaurant)

200 Merchant Street, Valletta

Organized by (Thank you!!!):

Deborah Ebejar, MA in Film Studies, University of Malta

Benjamin Goff, PhD in Film Studies, King’s College London, UK

Andrea Gravina, MA in Film Studies, University of Malta

Audrey Mitchell, PhD in Film Studies, University of Sydney, Australia



DAY 2 – TUESDAY JUNE 24

8:30

WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION First Floor Foyer

9:00 – 10:30

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
(EF)FACING EXTINCTION	DIGITAL IMAGINARY	LYNCH/THOUGHT
Moderator: Dominic Lash	Moderator: Lawrence Alexander	Moderator: Alex Ling
SIMON RYLE, “Signs of that Other Night: Japan, Negation, and the Post-Structural Gaze in Film and Theory from 1955-1983”	Oskar Ban Brejc, “The Generated Image as ‘Primal Protoplasm’”	MARTIN ROSSOUW, “Mystified Minds, Mystical Means: Transformational Ethics of Perplexity for the David Lynch Devotee”
BJARKE LIBORIUSSEN, “Ecoqueer Enclosure in <i>The Last of Us</i> ”	LINNEA SAARANEN, “Entering the Digital Realm: A Phenomenological and New Materialist Approach to Mariko Mori’s Digital and Video Art”	JEFF SCHEIBLE, “Lynch’s Daily Digits”
JEAN-THOMAS TREMBLAY, “Brain Trust”	CHUNYAN FU, “The Seen and the Seeming: Disturbance, Reduction and the Ontology of the Post-Cinematic Image”	AUGUSTIN, “The Scream Without a Mouth: Misogynistic De-figuration in David Lynch’s <i>Lost Highway</i> ”

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
PERSIAN FILM-PHILOSOPHY 2	CONCERNING VIOLENCE	
Moderator: Navid Darvishzadeh	Moderator: Sue Matheson	
SAJAD SOTOUDEH, “Walking as an Expression of Female Agency in Iranian Cinema and Culture”	ADAM DE CAULP, “Laughing Matter: The Affirmation of Violence in 21 st Century South Korean Cinema	
TANYA SHILINA-CONTE,	PEDRO INOCK,	

"The Sartorial Islamic Baroque in Iranian Film Practice: Folds, Fashion, and Feminism"	"ULTRAVIOLENCE: 'Framing' a Content-(un)Aware Glance"	
	THOMAS GROCOTT, "Colour as an Ethics of Spectatorship: Reading Richard Mosse's <i>The Enclave</i> (2013) and the Hollywood War Film"	

10:30 – 10:45

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

10:45 – 12:15

ROOM 103	Room 101	Room 102
POSTSECULAR CINEMA	TOYING WITH DOUBLES	AFFECT OF ABSENCE
Moderator: John Caruana	Moderator: Tarja Laine	Moderator: Oscar Bloomfield
JOE KICKASOLA, "Both Witness and Choir': Mapping Post-Secular Transcendence in Scott Barley's <i>Sleep Has Her House</i> ."	KAITLIN LAKE, Two Become One: Cinematic Doubles, Spectral Ontologies, and Sartrean Spectatorship in <i>The Substance</i> (2024).	DOMINIC LASH, "Disappearance, Distraction, and Disappointment in <i>Trenque Lauquen</i> (2022)"
DAVID SCHWARTZ, "Psyche and the Severed Floor: Cinematic Apprehension, Postsecularism, and the Self in <i>Severance</i> and David Bentley Hart's Philosophy of Mind"	MASHYA BOON, "Annihilation's Posthuman Prism: Refracting Human/Nature"	YI SONG, "Intimacy and Absence: Children's Mourning in <i>Petite Maman</i> (2021) and <i>Close</i> (2022)"
MARK CAUCHI, "Can there be an Immanent Style? Schrader in a Secular Age"	MICHAEL BRODSKI, "Toyification: Concept, Use and Role in Contemporary Cinema"	SABINE DORAN, "The Acinematic in Claire Denis' <i>Trouble Every Day</i> (2001): Effacements, or the Politics of a Blush"

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
SOBCHACK & BEYOND	AFTER FILM	FACIALITY & SENSATION IN EXPERIMENTAL FILM
Moderator: Hanyu Wang	Moderator: Yu Yang	Moderator: Kangkang Shen
SIQI XU, "Animating Phenomenology: Epoché and Cinematic Flesh in <i>Neon Genesis Evangelion</i> "	THOMAS QUIST, "The Image after Leaving the Cinema: Toward a Theory of the Imago"	SANGYOUNG NAM, "Throbbing Colors, Feeling Sounds: Nonhuman Sensation and Experimental Cinema"
DANIEL VELLA, "Seeing, Being Seen, Being Seen to See: Human and Inhuman Perceptions in <i>Under the Skin</i> "	EDDIE FENG, "Translation as Ontology: Cinematic Mediation and the Digital Afterlife of Performance"	SENEB TUZEN, "Echoes of Touch in <i>Leviathan</i> (2012): Haptic Sound and the Return of Aura in Digital Cinema"

RACHATA SASNANAND, “Beyond the Address of the Eye: Reading <i>Leviathan’s</i> (2012) Multi-Sensorial Dialectic as Resistance to Human Ocularcentrism”	CONALL CASH, “Why Walter White Had To Be Killed: Television and the Politics of Aesthetic Experience”	LAWRENCE ALEXANDER, “Operating Athwart Algorithmic Faciality in Contemporary Moving Image Art”
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12:15 – 1:30

LUNCH First Floor Foyer

1:30 – 3:00

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
WOMEN & UNKNOWING CAVELL	THE HAUNTOLOGY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE	AGENCY – HUMAN, NONHUMAN
Moderator: Kaitlin Lake	Moderator: Gabriella Blasi	Moderator: Tamas Nagypal
CATHERINE WHEATLEY, “How to tell a Slap from a Slug: A Film-Philosopher’s Guide to Spotting Red Flags”	AIMEE MOLLAGHAN, “The History that You Missed: Hauntology, Place, the Return of the Filmmaker”	LAWRENCE GARCIA, “Innocents with Dirty Hands: Destiny, Agency, and Responsibility in Film Noir”
AUDREY MITCHELL, “Othering Oneself to See the Other: Sarah Polley’s <i>Stories We Tell</i> (2012)”	ÖMER DERDIYOK, Spectral Terrains: Visual Motifs of Human and Landscape in Nuri Bilge Ceylan’s Cinema	HANYU WANG, “Affective Variants, Non-human Actors and Objective Self-affection in Soi Cheang’s <i>Limbo</i> ”
MICHELLE DEVEREAUX, “Inherited Trauma, Postcolonial Scepticism and Vocal Harmony in Jennifer Kent’s <i>The Nightingale</i> ”	TINA WASSERMAN, “Ghost Time: Moving Images and the Return to the Past”	MIGUEL OLEA ROMACHO, “Every Form an Invention: Figural Thinking and a Film-Situated Agency”

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
SPACE & VOID	MONSTER ETHICS	
Moderator: Glen Norton	Moderator: Michael Brodski	
JEAN MA, “Dislocating the Hong Kong New Wave: Ann Hui’s <i>The Secret</i> ”	SUE MATHESON, “Aristotle and the Zombie Apocalypse: Phobos and Virtue Ethics in <i>Night of The Living Dead</i> (1968) and <i>Shaun of the Dead</i> (2004)”	
LU ZENG, “Topological Mediations: Cinematic Place as the Void of Badiouian Truth”	DEBORAH EBEJAR, “Monstrous Memory: Guillermo Del Toro’s Cinema as a Trauma Narrative”	

COREY CRIBB, “Hors Cadre: Marie-Claire Ropars on Montage, Negativity and Cinematic <i>Écriture</i> ”	PRIYANKA DAS, “Okja, Stranger Things, and Human Exceptionalism: A Derridean Reading of Monstrosity and Posthuman Ethics”	
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3:00 – 3:15

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

3:15 – 4:30

KEYNOTE Magna Aula Auditorium

SANDRA LAUGIER

Professor of Philosophy, University of Paris (Sorbonne)

“Moral Education by Film and Television “

Moderator: Catherine Wheatley
(Professor of Film & Visual Culture, King’s College London, UK)

6:30

CONFERENCE DINNER & FORT ST. ANGELO TOUR

- *** Only those who have prepaid may attend ***
- **6:30 pm:** Meet at [Fort St Angelo](#) entrance at 6:30 pm for an optional and included 1-hour walking tour, and then a short walk to dinner
- **8 pm:** Dinner at the [Maritime Museum](#)
- **DIRECTIONS:**
 - To go to Fort St Angelo and Maritime Museum, do one of the following:
 - 1. FERRY**
 - Go to Valletta 3-Cities Ferry Dock (costs a few Euros)
 - To get there, you will have to descend from the main city streets to the harbour level:
 - *Either* take the lift from Upper Baraka to Lower Baraka (1 Euro) and follow Google Maps
 - *Or* wind your way down following Google Maps “3 Cities Ferry” (10 mins)

2. **BUS:** Take Bus 2 from the Valletta bus terminal (just outside Valletta Gates), get off at Birgu Centre (about 40 mins), walk to Fort St Angelo entrance (10 mins)
3. **UBER** (consider sharing rides with other conference attendees)



DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

8:30

WELCOME COFFEE First Floor Foyer

9:00 – 10:30

ROOM 103	ROOM 101	ROOM 102
THE SPIRIT OF DELEUZE	PSYCHOANALYSIS	SOUNDING CINEMA
Moderator: Susana Viegas	Moderator: Lucas Ferraco Nassif	Moderator: Michael Goddard
LIAM DRAKE, “Deleuze’s Fifth Dimension: <i>Order’s</i> Spirit of Cinema-Time”	ALEX LING, “The Cuts that Bind: Hitchcock, Lynch, Lacan”	OSCAR BLOOMFIELD, “The Silent Listener: Michelangelo Antonioni’s <i>La notte</i> (1961)”
CHENLEI XIAO, “The Digital Spirituality of Light and Night: Komorebi as the Illuminated Mental-Image of Tokyo in Wim Wenders’ <i>Perfect Days</i> ”	MCNEIL TAYLOR, “A Psychoanalysis of Nature? Freud, Merleau-Ponty and the Respiration-Image”	JORDAN KROHN, “Transhuman Philosophy and the Biopolitics of Care in <i>Sound of Metal</i> ”
JOSH CABRITA, “On Deleuze’s Conception of the Sublime and the Problem of Successive Time”		YIXUAN FENG, “Echoes of Power: Repetition, Discipline, and Subjectivity in <i>Whiplash</i> ”

ROOM 2	ROOM 3	ROOM 4
QUEER AFFECT	POWER & RIGHTS	
Moderator: Jean-Thomas Tremblay	Moderator: Giorgio Bottini	
JACK POCALUYKO, “More real than real life’: the cruel optimism of Jane Schoenbrun’s <i>I Saw the TV Glow</i> ”	DIOGO NÓBREGA, “Pellegrina, from Orson Welles: On the Cinematic Foundations of Democracy”	

YIOU YANG, "The Failure of Cure: Queer Temporality and Non-linear Futures"	TAMAS NAGYPAL, "The Discorrelated Object of Pornpower: Cam as a Neoliberal Noir"	
FERDINANDO COCCO, "The Melancholic Apparatus: Animation and the Queer Work of Mourning"	SULE SAHIN CEYLAN, "Would the Right to Have Rights Saved Zain?"	

10:30 – 10:45

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

10:45 – 12:15

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
FEMINIST FILM-PHILOSOPHY	PERSIAN FILM-PHILOSOPHY 3	AI-STHETICS
Moderator:	Moderator: Tanya Shilina-Conte	Moderator: Justin Cosner
LUCY BOLTON, "The Feminist Film Philosophy Reader: Anthology Curation as a Process of Care"	PARISA ZANDBAF, "Cinematic Interaction Beyond Trans-Individuality and Relationality"	KANGKANG SHEN, "Film as AI: From Robot-Film to AI-Image"
DANIEL VARNDELL, "Gifting the Impossible in <i>Stella Dallas</i> "	NAVID DARVISHZADEH, "The Actual, the Virtual, and the Flow of Time: An Imaginal Chronotope Sublime"	WANQI LI, "Reprogramming Cinema: A Soft History of Soft Cinema"
MARGUERITE LA CAZE, "L'Avenir (<i>Things to Come</i> , Mia Hansen-Løve, 2016) and Simone de Beauvoir on Freedom and Happiness"		MENGKE LIU, "Backing to Semiotics: Producing Moving Images with Words in the AI-Generated Era"

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
NEW THEORETICAL PROPOSALS		
Moderator: Josh Cabrita		
NICHOLAS BAER, "Future Perfect: From Kino-Eye to the Poor Image"		
ANIS PERVEZ, "Neocybernetic Film Theory: Meaning Construction in Cinema"		

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12:15 – 1:30

LUNCH First Floor Foyer

1:30 – 2:30 Short Session

Room 103	Room 101	Room 102
BORDERS & MIGRATION	THINKING UNKNOWING	AUTHENTICITY IN QUESTION
Moderator: Anna Doyle	Moderator: Eve O'Donoghue	Moderator: Gloria Lauri-Lucente
FATMA SERDAROGLU, "Double Occupancy and the Ethics of Coexistence: Analyzing Migration Cinema through Refugee Narratives in the UK and Turkey"	FRYDERYCK KWIATJOWSKI, "The Gnostic Fear of Exploitation in Conspiracy Films"	TARJA LAINE, "Bad Faith and Double Consciousness: <i>Sorry to Bother You</i> as Existentialist Satire"
LENARDO CAFFO, "Rethinking Lampedusa: A Philosophical Journey"	MERVE SEN, "Multiplicity in Making: Translation and Undoing of Medical Knowledge in <i>De Humani Corporis Fabrica</i> "	STUART MCBRATNEY, "Strangers in a Car Park – An Emic Perspective on Filmmaking and Authenticity"

Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
HISTORICAL PROJECTIONS	EMBODIMENTS	ATMOSPHERES
Moderator: Tina Wasserman	Moderator: Rachata Sasnanand	Moderator: Giulia Rainoldi
JACOB GOLDMAN, "Anachronic Palmistry: Prehistory as Projection in <i>On Top of the Whale</i> (1982)"	NEBU GEORGE, "Embodied Archives: Phenomenology, Ethics, and the Adaptation of Cultural Memory in Mari Selvaraj's Tamil Cinema"	IL SUN MOON, "Atmospheric Dailiness: Diaristic Practice and Performative Camera in the Experimental Moving Image"
GABRIELLA BLASI, "The Poetics of the Trace: Memory, History, and the Figural in Rohrwacher's Cinema"	EMMA BEN AYOUN, "Diminishing Returns: Illness, Disability and Repetition in the Films of Tsai Ming-Liang"	KALPANA SUBRAMANIAN (Virtual), "Breath, Atmospheres and Somatic Sensing in Zhou Tao's <i>The Periphery of the Base</i> "

2:30 - 2:45

COFFEE BREAK First Floor Foyer

2:45 - 4:00

KEYNOTE Magna Aula Auditorium

WALID EL KHACHAB

Professor of Arabic Studies, York University, Canada

“Adam: the Firstness of Film and the Skin of the World”

Moderator: Mark Cauchi

(Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, York University, Canada)

4:00 – 4:15

CLOSING REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Holtmeier, Film-Philosophy Conference Manager

(Associate Professor of Film Studies, East Tennessee State University, USA)

Mark Cauchi, Film-Philosophy Conference Director

(Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, York University, Canada)



TECHNOLOGY

WIFI @ UM

EDUROAM is available

To access University of Malta wifi:

1. Connect to host name: **CSC-UOM-WIFI**
2. If the web page does not open automatically, open your browser and type the following address: wifi.um.edu.mt
3. From the welcome screen select the option: **Attending a conference or event at the University of Malta**
4. Click on the event name from the list provided
5. Enter the following conference code: **PHLCNFRN**
6. Fill in online form

PRESENTATION SLIDES

- All the rooms of the conference are equipped with PCs, screens, and HDMI cables
- If you are intending to show slides and video clips, you can either put them on USB sticks to use with in-house PCs, or connect your laptop via HDMI
- If you are using a MAC, don't forget to bring a "dongle" adaptor (dongles are not provided)



CLOSING CREDITS

FILM-PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE 2025 was hosted by:



The conference was supported by a grant from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



It received additional funding and in-kind contributions from:

York University, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Research Events Fund

York University, [Graduate Program in Social & Political Thought](#)

York University, [Department of Humanities](#)

University of Malta, [MA in Film Studies](#)

The conference was organized by:

Conference Director: [Mark Cauchi](#) (Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, York University, Canada)

Co-Organizer: [Gloria Lauri Lucente](#) (Professor, MA in Film Studies, University of Malta)

Co-Organizer: [Claude Mangion](#) (Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Malta)

Film-Philosophy Conference Manager: [Matthew Holtmeier](#) (Associate Professor, Film Studies, East Tennessee State University)

The proposal evaluation committee this year was comprised of (in alphabetic order):

Lucy Bolton, Professor of Film Studies, Queen Mary University London, UK
John Caruana, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada
David H. Fleming, Senior Lecturer in Communications, Media, and Culture, Sterling University, UK
Tarja Laine, Assistant Professor of Film Studies, University of Amsterdam
Susana Viegas, Assistant Professor in Department of Communication Sciences, Nova Institute of Philosophy, Portugal
Kevin Wynter, Associate Professor of Media Studies, Pomona College, USA

The student reception was organized by:

Deborah Ebejar, MA in Film Studies, University of Malta
Benjamin Goff, PhD in Film Studies, King's College London, UK
Andrea Gravina, MA in Film Studies, University of Malta
Audrey Mitchell, PhD in Film Studies, University of Sydney, Australia

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Lucienne May Bugeja, Operations & Events Manager
Angele Grixit, Administration Specialist
Sarah Sammut, Administration Specialist
Maria Evelyn Vella, Website design

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Elicia Clements, Chair of Department of Humanities, York University, Canada

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Joseph Farrugia, Heritage Malta

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All the cleaners, servers, and administrative staff of the Valletta Campus, Saħħa Kitchen, and Taste of Malta.