



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Dear all,

the last session of this years' film-philosophy seminar is approaching. The final presentation will explore the seminar topic "Resonances and Rhythms. The Epistemology of Cinema as an Aural Art" from an analytical perspective:

Philipp Schmerheim and Dr. Tobias Kurwinkel (Bremen) will talk about "Aurality in Children's Film and Family Entertainment Films". You can find a more detailed description below.

We hope that many of you will attend. The meeting is also an opportunity to discuss the topic of next year's ASCA film-philosophy seminar.

The meeting takes places on

Date: June 7, 2013

Time: 15:00 - 18:00

Venue: BG1, room 0.13 (media studies building)

After the seminar meeting, we want to invite you all for a concluding Borrel at Café de Jaren right around the corner.

Abstract of the seminar presentation:

ASCA film-philosophy seminar 2012/13, June 7, 2013

Aurality in Children's Film and Family Entertainment Films

Dr. Tobias Kurwinkel, Philipp Schmerheim

The presentations of this year's film-philosophy seminar have highlighted how integral aurality is for the design of contemporary cinematic media. In our presentation, we will argue that aurality plays a particularly special role in the design, reception and analysis of children's films and family entertainment films – largely because, as neuropsychological studies of child development suggest, in comparison to adult film experience the film experience of children and young adults is dominated by attention to aural rather than visual elements.

This helps explaining the massive inclusion of songs, dances and rhymed conversations in children's films; and it also helps understanding better why blockbuster films – who are specifically targeted at younger audiences – tend so much towards being a "cinema of attractions": they enact a return to the spectatorial state of the childhood.

In the first part of the presentation, we outline a concept of extended filmic aurality which includes not only film elements directly aimed at a human being's sense of hearing (e.g. dialogues, music, sounds) but also stylistic devices rather indirectly aimed at the sense of hearing, e.g. by correlating or synchronizing auditive with visual elements. Examples are the rhythm of a film, the 'metrics' of film montage (e.g. Eisensteinian rhythmic montage) and other phenomena which elicit what Michel Chion calls "trans-sensory perceptions".

We will put these theses to the test in the second part, where – together with the seminar participants – we will analyze selected scenes from the HARRY POTTER film series, which tells a coming-of-age story not only from a narrative point of view, but also from a film-aesthetic perspective.

With the focus on the aurality of children's film, this presentation is an analytically focused contribution to the seminar's overarching theme "Resonances and Rhythms. The Epistemology of Cinema as an Aural Art".

On the seminar blackboard, you can find the suggested reading:

- Philip Nel, "Lost in Translation? Harry Potter, from Page to Screen". In: Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter. 2nd edition. Edited by Elizabeth E. Heilman. New York: Routledge, 275-289

Bio-blurbs

Dr. Tobias Kurwinkel is a lecturer in Children's and Youth Media Studies at the University of Bremen. He held teaching appointments at the universities of Düsseldorf, Duisburg-Essen and Göttingen. Tobias Kurwinkel obtained his M.A. in German and English Literature – and at Sapienza University of Rome in Italy. In 2011 he finished his PhD thesis on Thomas Mann's early novellas and corresponding film adaptations in relation to Friedrich Nietzsche's Aesthetics. His research is focused on German Literature of the 19th and 20th century and on children's media, especially on the relationship between literature and other media. More information and publications on www.kurwinkel.de

Philipp Schmerheim is a PhD fellow at ASCA, and holds teaching appointments at the universities of Bremen and Düsseldorf. His research focuses on film-philosophy, particularly on the configurations of philosophical ideas in contemporary mainstream cinema, and on the analysis of children's films and other aspects of children's media research. He studied philosophy, media studies and ancient history at Georg August University of Göttingen, Sapienza University of Rome, University of California, Santa Barbara and at the University of Amsterdam. More information and publications on <http://www.uva.nl/profile/p.a.schmerheim>.

Both presenters co-founded www.KinderundJugendmedien.de, an interdisciplinary internet portal on children's media research which is hosted by the universities of Bremen and Düsseldorf.

We hope to see many of you at the last meeting!

All the best

Patricia Pisters & Philipp Schmerheim