

CLS 289  
W '09

VS 295/CLS289: Cinemas of Immigration and Exile  
Winter, 2009  
Prof. Catherine L. Benamou

Meets Wednesdays, 6-8:50 p.m. in HIB 90

This is an interdisciplinary examination of the intersection of two late twentieth-century phenomena – the increased mobility of film and television production and exhibition across national and regional boundaries, and the emergence in the circumatlantic region of audiovisual productions that portray the experience of migration and exile. This double movement has contributed to the formation of new sociocultural geographies and media practices that are often folded into the category of the “global” or the “transnational;” yet the aesthetic, socio-economic, cultural and political processes they entail are inadequately described by those categories. We begin with these questions: what is the impact of geocultural and psychosocial displacement on the construction of narrative space, temporal relations, and point of view? To what extent do immigration or exile provide a productive site for a critique of the nation-state, whether “host” or “left-behind”? What happens when we restore the (e)migrant “subject” to the center of our analysis? What kinds of aesthetic strategies are linked to the associated processes of memory, separation, loss, yearning? What is the place of the “collectivity” in this field of representation? What creative and institutional challenges are faced by exilic and estranged *auteurs*, such as Orson Welles or Raúl Ruiz? Which genres hold a special appeal for displaced spectators, and why?

Assigned texts (to be supplemented by individual essays available on *EEE*):

Gilles Deleuze, *CINEMA 2: THE TIME IMAGE* (U. Minnesota, 1989)  
ISBN: 0-8166-1677-9; ISBN-13: 978-0-8166-1677-0

Hamid Naficy, *ACCENTED CINEMA: EXILIC AND DIASPORIC FILMMAKING* (Princeton, 2001) ISBN 0-691-04391-4

David Morley, *HOME TERRITORIES: MEDIA, MOBILITY, & IDENTITY*  
(Routledge, 2000) ISBN 0-415-15765-X

Raúl Ruiz, *POETICS OF CINEMA* (Dis Voir Press, 1995) ISBN: 9782906571389  
ISBN10: 2906571385

Alicia Schmidt-Camacho, *MIGRANT IMAGINARIES: LATINO CULTURAL POLITICS IN THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDERLANDS* (New York University Press, 2008) ISBN 9780814716489

**SCREENINGS (we will need to determine a convenient projection venue and schedule):**

**week 1:** THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA, dir. Tommy Lee Jones (EuropaCorp./Javellina Film Company, 2005) 121 min.

**week 2:** NUOVOMONDO (GOLDEN DOOR), Dir. Emanuele Crialese (FRANCE/ITALY, 2007) 118 minutes.

**week 3:** MAID IN AMERICA, dir. Anayansi Prado, 2004 (Independent Lens, WMM) / LA NOIRE DE... (BLACK GIRL), dir. Ousmane Sembene, 1966 (65 min.)

*also clips:* BAJO LA MISMA LUNA (UNDER THE SAME MOON), dir. Patricia Riggen (2007)

**week 4:** ALI: FEAR EATS THE SOUL (ANGST ESSEN SEELE AUF) Dir. Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1974 (94 min.)

**week 5:** THE EDGE OF HEAVEN (AUF DER ANDEREN SEITE, dir. Fatih Akin, 2007)

**week 6:** DESPUÉS DEL TERREMOTO, dir. Lourdes Portillo (1979)  
GRANDMA HAS A VIDEO CAMERA, dir. Tania Cypriano (2007)

**week 7:** EL SUPER, dir. León Ichaso, 1979, Orlando Jimenez Leal, 90 min  
(clips) ADIO KERIDA, dir. Ruth Behar, 2002 58 min.

(clips) LEJANÍA, dir. Jesús Díaz (Cuba, 1985) 90 min.

**week 8:** KAMIKAZE TAKUSHI (TAXI), dir. Masato Harada, 1995 140 min.

**week 9:** MR. ARKADIN (aka CONFIDENTIAL REPORT) dir. Orson Welles, 1955 105 min.

short: RETURN TO GLENNASCAUL, dir. Hilton Edwards, 1951

**week 10:** DIALOGUE of EXILES (Dialogos de exiliados) dir. Raul Ruiz, 1975  
LIFE IS A DREAM (MEMOIRE DES APPARENCES) dir. RAUL RUIZ, (INA) 1986 (100 min.)

(clips) TRES TRISTES TIGRES, dir. Raul Ruiz, 1968