Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas: Dialogues for Latin American Cinemas

Princeton University is proud to host this year’s iteration of the Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas: Dialogues for Latin American Cinemas. With support from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Program in Latin American Studies, the Princeton Institute for International Regional Studies, the Lewis Center at Princeton University, New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and Fordham University’s Latin and Latin American Studies Institute, this film festival brings together artists, filmmakers, critics, scholars to discuss the impact of digital technology on the horizons of film production, distribution, circulation and reception. This symposium explores the unequal space of practices and circuits that challenge the material and aesthetic migration to the digital form by combining diverse approaches to these questions, from the curatorial to the theoretical.

On the first day, Friday, November 10th, Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas is proud to announce the presence of André Gaudreault, who comes to us from the University of Montreal to discuss the changes in the material processes involved in reproducing photographic and cinematic images since 1907. We will also be joined by Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York, Paul Julian Smith, who will speak specifically to the digital turn in Mexican cinema, attempting to understand how the introduction of Netflix has changed filmmaking and consumption. Day one will also begin an exploration by NYU Professor Jens Andermann on material evolution of the photograph as it relates to our understanding of the temporality of the event. This discussion on time will be continued by world-renowned film scholar and critic, Laura Mulvey on day two, who will discuss film’s privileged relation to the representation of time and the ways in which film can think beyond modernity’s notion of time as progressive and unidirectional. On Day 2, we also welcome NYU’s Juana Suárez, Director of the Moving Image Archive and Preservation Program and Associate Arts Professor at NYU. Suárez is also a distinguished film scholar, activist, and social entrepreneur who will speak to the transition from analog to digital. Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas is proud to host these distinguished scholars along with many other presentations from scholars and academics from varied disciplinary and methodological backgrounds to explore such questions.

In the spirit of supporting a critical methodology of thinking about the digital image, we also announce the presence of several distinguished Latin American filmmakers whose work reflects questions highly relevant for today’s production and consumption of the modern image. Chilean filmmakers, Cristóbal León & Joaquín Cocíña, will join us to discuss their engagement with magical rituals and religious symbolism, painting, sculpture and photography through their stop-motion films, which have been selected repeatedly for showings in international film festivals. Manuel Abramovich, coming to us from Buenos Aires, has received over fifty awards and shown his film La reina (2014) at more than 150 film festivals all over the world. Finally, Canadian-Mexican filmmaker Nicolás Pereda, whose work uses a fractured and elliptical narrative using a
combination of fiction, documentary, and experimental tools, will explore the “everyday” through his own film practice. Both days of the festival will feature conversations with these distinguished artists, but we would especially like to extend an invitation to the culminating event in 010 East Pyne Hall at 4:30pm on Saturday, November 11th, where we will get a chance to see short films from each director and engage in a question and answer session with them, personally. Please join us in the conversation about how our conceptions of the image are changing rapidly with the invention of these revolutionary digital technologies.

Finally, and as a celebration of this year’s iteration of the festival, please join us on the evening of Friday, the 10th, for dinner, drinks, and dancing in East Pyne’s Hall’s Chancellor Green Café. The fiesta is excited to announce the company of Latinéo Band, who will give us the opportunity to move to a variety of musical styles: from salsa to bachata, cumbia to merengue! For more information about the festival, including the program, directions, and lodging, please visit the Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadadas website. We can’t wait to see you there!

Day 1
Friday, November 10, 2017
East Pyne 010

10:30 – 10:45 – Opening Remarks

Javier Guerrero, Princeton University

10:45 – 12:00 – Curatorship I

“Jaime Barrios: A Chilean Filmmaker in the Frontiers of New York’s Underground”. Julio Sebastián Figueroa, University of Pennsylvania and José Miguel Palacios, Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Chile)

“The Digital Cinemateca: FOCINE for All”. Anthony Chassi, Columbia University

Moderator: Juana Suárez, New York University

12:00 – 12:30 – Underdevelopment: Installation
Lizabel Mónica, Princeton University Pedro Navarro, Filmmaker

12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch
André Gaudreault, Université de Montréal

Moderator: Thomas Matusiak, Princeton University

3:00 – 4:15 – Digital Labs

“A última foto: Photography After Landscape”. Jens Andermann, New York University

“Netflix Comes to Mexico: Club de Cuervos (2015 – present)”. Paul Julian Smith, The Graduate Center (CUNY)

Moderator: Jonathan Aguirre, Princeton University

4:15 – 4:30 – Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 – Digital Economies: Consumption and Circulation of the Image

““Quemaditos” and YouTube Nostalgia: The Conditions of the Poor Image in Venezuela”. Elvira Blanco, Columbia University

“Mi sueño es representar la belleza de mi estado: Framing Beauty in Latin American Cinema”. Jeffrey Middents, American University

“From Document to Interactive Documentary”. Claudia Ferman, University of Richmond

Moderator: Paula Pérez-Rodríguez, Princeton University

6:15 – 7:45 – Film Program I

Cristóbal León & Joaquín Cociña, Artists and Filmmakers  Manuel Abramovich, Filmmaker  Nicolás Pereda, Filmmaker and Rutgers University

Moderators: Javier Guerrero and Alejandro Martínez, Princeton University

7:45 – Encrucijadas Fiesta

Chancellor Green Café, featuring Latinéo Band
9:00 – 9:30 – Continental Breakfast

9:30 – 11:00 – The many faces of cinema: from web-documentary to the anti-digital

“A Chocolate Conquest, Docu-Web Project About the History and Culture of Cacao Communities in Venezuela”. Esther Duran, DeSales University


“Gabriel Páez’s Vengo volviendo (2015) and the cine comunitario in Ecuador at the Beginning of the 21st Century”. Henry Tarco Carrera, University of Alabama

Moderator: Jannia Gómez, Princeton University

11:00 – 12:30 – Digitized marginal bodies

“This Sex Which is Not 100011001: Chilean/Digital/Trans*”. Carl Fischer, Fordham University

“From La invención de Morel (1940) to Videophilia and Other Viral Syndromes (2015): Technoapocalypse and Glitch Cinema Through the Latin American Screen”. Andrea Gaytán, Rutgers University

“Transitions to the Digital: Notes on Programming the Videos of Narcisa Hirsch and Lotty Rosenfeld”. Mónica Ramón Ríos, Fordham University

Moderator: Veronica Carchedi, Princeton University

12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch

1:30 – 2:50 – Time at a Crossroads: Thinking About Temporal Imaginaries Through the Compilation Film

Laura Mulvey, Birkbeck, University of London

Moderator: Sowmya Ramanathan, Princeton University
3:00 – 4:15 – Curatorship II

“Transmedial Materialities”. Juana Suárez, New York University

“Performance/Paper”. Nicolás Pereda, Filmmaker and Rutgers University

Moderator: Jonathan Elí Melgar, Princeton University

4:30 – 5:45 – Film Program II

Cristóbal León & Joaquín Cocíña, Artists and Filmmakers  Manuel Abramovich, Filmmaker

Moderators: Javier Guerrero, Thomas Matusiak, Sowmya Ramanathan, Princeton University

6:00 – Final Remarks

Javier Guerrero, Princeton University