

Liverpool Film Seminar

2010 – 2011 series

Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites experts to deliver a series of talks. Topics vary greatly and the series does not focus on a specific aspect of film. Instead, a range of genres and approaches are celebrated, from historical reach to the internet's impact on cinematic material.

Dr Warren Buckland (Oxford Brookes University)

Understanding David Lynch's *Inland Empire*

In his review of David Lynch's *Inland Empire* (2006), Michael Atkinson wrote that "the surest way to find disappointment in Lynch's Byzantine, exhaustive howl is to hunt for codes and readings" (*Sight and Sound*, April 2007, p. 69), which points to the limitations of film analysis in fixing the meaning of the unpredictable films of David Lynch.

In his presentation, Warren will not try to explain what the film means, for this activity is reductionist and takes something away from the film. Like Raymond Bellour in his later textual analyses (such as his essay called "The Film We Accompany"), he will "accompany the film as it unfolds," reading "from the film" rather than reading "into it."

Biography:



Warren Buckland is Reader in Film Studies at Oxford Brookes University. He has seven books to his name: *Film Theory & Contemporary Hollywood Movies* (2009); *Puzzle Films: Complex Storytelling in Contemporary Cinema* (2009); *Directed by Steven Spielberg: Poetics of the Contemporary Hollywood Blockbuster* (2006); *Studying Contemporary American Film: A Guide to Movie Analysis* (2002) (with Thomas Elsaesser); *The Cognitive Semiotics of Film* (2000); the best-selling *Teach Yourself Film Studies* (1998; third edition, 2008); and *The Film Spectator* (1995). He

also edits the journal the *New Review of Film and Television Studies* for Routledge while, currently, he is working on the monograph *Film Theory: Rational Reconstructions* (Routledge, 2012) and co-authoring (with Edward Branigan) the *Encyclopedia of Film Theory* (Routledge, forthcoming).