

Liverpool Film Seminar

2015 – 2016 series

Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites six 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.

Professor Ewa Mazierska (University of Central Lancashire)

Creating the Canon of Polish Cinema

Ewa Mazierska will discuss the problems of creating a canon of national cinema, considering Polish cinema of the period of state socialism as her case study. She will identify its main agents, such as influential film critics and present several criteria of canon-making, pertaining to Polish cinema, such as focusing on authors, rather than films, privileging films about the past, as well as those critical of the reality of state socialism.

Ewa Mazierska will also analyse the reasons certain types of films remained outside the canon and what are the main differences between the canons of Polish cinema for external and internal consumption, as reflected in the histories of Polish cinema, lists of the 'best Polish films' compiled in Poland, and the positions Polish films got in 'Sight and Sound' questionnaires. Finally, Ewa Mazierska will show how the Polish canon starts to be undermined by the political changes and recent developments in film studies, such as a greater attention granted to popular and transnational cinema.

Biography:



Ewa Mazierska is Professor of Film Studies at the School of Journalism and Media, University of Central Lancashire. She published over twenty monographs and edited collections on European cinema, representation of work in film, gender and popular music.

They include *From Self-Fulfilment to Survival of the Fittest: Work in European Cinema from the 1960s till Now* (Berghahn, 2015), *Falco and Beyond; Neo Nothing Post of All* (Equinox, 2014), *Postcolonial Approaches to Eastern European Cinema: Representing Neighbours on Screen*, edited with Eva Näripea and Lars Kristensen (I. B. Tauris, 2014), *Work in Cinema: Labor and Human Condition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and *European Cinema and Intertextuality: History, Memory, Politics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).