

Liverpool Film Seminar

2017 – 2018 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.

Professor John Hill (Royal Holloway, University of London)

How to Qualify as British: UK Film Policy and the Definition of 'Nationality'

Despite a turn away from the 'national' in much contemporary film analysis, discourses of the 'national' continue to structure the ways in which films are categorised, funded and rendered eligible for state support. By focusing upon the history of British film policy, this paper will consider how legal definitions of a 'British' film have informed both economic and cultural policy objectives and facilitated a range of film production. In doing so, the presentation will not only indicate how 'national' discourses and practices have continued to structure the economic and cultural dynamics of contemporary 'British' filmmaking but also, due to the ways in which nationality has been defined, to support - as much as oppose - 'transnational' and globalising trends.

Biography:

John Hill is Professor of Media, Royal Holloway, University of London. Hill is the author of a number of books including *Cinema and Northern Ireland: Film, Culture and Politics* (2006) and *Ken Loach: The Politics of Film and Television* (2011) as well as the co-editor of various books and journals including special issues of the *Journal of British Cinema and Television* on 'Film in Britain in the New Millennium' (2012), the *Journal of International Cultural Policy* on 'Film Policy in a Globalised Cultural Economy' (2016) and the *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* on 'Forgotten Television Drama' (2017). He is also a former Director of the UK Film Council and Governor of the British Film Institute.

