VOICING HIDDEN HISTORIES

ACTIVIST FILM CONFERENCE

15 NOVEMBER 2017, HYDE PARK PICTURE HOUSE, LEEDS

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Arts & Humanities Research Council
HYDE PARK PICTURE HOUSE

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
Seminar Programme

09.15   Doors Open

09.30   Introduction & Welcome
        Prof. Paul Cooke, University of Leeds and Dr. Laura Ager, Radical Film Network and Leeds International Film Festival

09.40   Film Screening: Voicing Hidden Histories
        A documentary outlining the recent work of the University of Leeds-led project ‘Troubling the National Brand and Voicing Hidden Histories’, using participatory filmmaking to work with marginalised communities in Brazil, South Africa and India throughout 2017.
        Prof. Paul Cooke

10.00   Screening, Q&A and Discussion: Resistant Cultures

        Screening: The Rainbow House Woman
        Brazil, 2017, 23min; Director: Gilberto Alexandre Sobrinho; Producer: Julio Matos and Marcelo Félix.

        A poetic documentary about the history and life of Mãe Dango, a priestess of Candomblé de Angola, in the city of Hortolândia, in the state of São Paulo. She is the bearer and diffuser of the banto legacy, and has become a symbol of the fight against racism, religious intolerance and the end of poverty. Faith, resistance, beauty and community affections are the strong values related to her figure.

        Discussion: Prof. Gilberto Alexandre Sobrinho in conversation with Dr. Andrew Moore

11.15   Coffee Break

11.30   Screenings, Q&A and Discussion: Migrant Female Workers

        Screening: Limpiadores
        UK, 2015, 39min; Director & Producer: Fernando González Mitjáns

        Before the professors and students arrive for their morning classes at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, some people there are just finishing work. ‘Limpiadores’ charts the day-to-day invisible labour of the outsourced Latin American cleaners working on campus, and focuses on their ongoing campaign to
demand being brought in-house as SOAS staff. The film also highlights the earlier deportation of nine colleagues.

**Screening: They Call Us Maids: The Domestic Workers’ Story**  
UK, 2015, 7min; Director & Writer: Terry Wragg; Animator: Jo Dunn; Producer: Leeds Animation Workshop

An animated film from Leeds Animation Workshop that draws on the experiences of migrant domestic workers living and working in private homes across the UK. Isolated in foreign households, these women from extremely poor backgrounds work for long hours and low pay. Many find themselves trapped in conditions of great hardship. The film was commissioned by Pavilion and produced by Leeds Animation Workshop, in collaboration with Justice for Domestic Workers.

**Discussion:** Terry Wragg and Mimi and Janet from The Voice of Domestic Workers, in conversation with Dr. Laura Ager

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Screenings, Q&A and Discussion: Making Films with Children

**Screening: Govan Young**  
UK, 2017, 30min; Directors: David Archibald, Martin Clark, Cara Connolly; Producer: David Archibald

Through field trips, interviews and encounters with the past, Pirie Park Primary School pupils in Govan discover Glasgow’s medieval history and heritage. Co-Director David Archibald said: “The city understands itself primarily through its relationship to industry, but we have an important pre-industrial past we need to engage with.” And it’s not just the lost kingdom of Strathclyde that’s new, many of them are visiting the River Clyde for the first time.

**Discussion:** Prof. David Archibald in conversation with Prof. Paul Cooke

14.30 Panel/Discussion: Dissemination

All speakers

15.45 World Premiere: Changing the Story Youth Protest Film premiere

*The Filmmakers: Mabs Beet, Andy Horry, Asif Hussain, Ananya Sriram, Poppy Potts, and Harry Vandebospoort*
Speaker Biographies

Andrew Moore | University of Leeds
Andy Moore is a Teaching Fellow in Film Studies at the University of Leeds. His research interests include ethnographic film, documentary and experimental film. Andy also works as a freelance film programmer and has programmed screenings and events for The Harvard Film Archive, Leeds International Film Festival and The Hyde Park Picture House.

David Archibald | University of Glasgow
David Archibald is Senior Lecturer in Film and Television Studies at the University of Glasgow. His academic work includes the monograph The war that won’t die: the Spanish Civil War in cinema (2012). In addition to work in Film Studies on film and history, radical film cultures and film festivals, David has published numerous essays on various aspects of Scotland’s cultural and political landscape. An active participant in film culture in Scotland, he was Overall Coordinator of the 2016 Radical Film Network Festival and Unconference in Glasgow and is currently Chair of the Board of Document Film Festival and a Trustee of Glasgow Film Theatre. David has worked on six short films, most recently Govan Young (2017), an award-winning documentary about medieval Govan, which he produced and co-directed. He also appears on stage irregularly alongside Carl Lavery in Glasgow Glam Rock Dialogues.

Gilberto Alexandre Sobrinho | State University of Campinas
Gilberto Alexandre Sobrinho is Professor of Cinema and Media Studies at Arts Institute, State University of Campinas, in Brazil. Teaching and research interests are about identity, authorship and technology, mainly in the documentary domain. He is also a filmmaker interested in the Brazilian black diaspora. His publications include O AUTOR MULTIPLICADO and CINEMAS EM REDES and he directed the documentaries DIÁRIO DE EXUS e A DANÇA DA AMIZADE e is currently directing A MULHER DA CASA DO ARCO-ÍRIS.

Inés Soria-Turner | University of Leeds
Inés is Project Manager at the Centre for World Cinemas and Digital Culture, and manages both GCRF projects linked to this event – Changing the Story and Voicing Hidden Histories. Her interests lie in creative education and cultural activism as a means of community empowerment and connection, and how cross-sector networks can support this. Inés has an MA in French Cultural Studies (Uni of Nottingham) and a PGDip in Arts Management, Policy & Practice (Uni of Manchester). Prior to joining the university, she led the education programme at South Asian Arts UK. She also spent 5 years at the multi-award winning In Place of War as a producer, project manager and network coordinator. Inés has worked across the academic, cultural, and creative industries since 2008, connecting artists and creative communities across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Laura Ager | Radical Film Network
Laura is an independent researcher and culture worker. As a freelance event organiser and film programmer she organises pop-up screenings in Leeds under the name Film Fringe, she is regional co-ordinator for the Scalarama film festival and programmes documentaries for the Leeds International Film Festival and the Hyde Park Picture House. She recently completed her PhD in festivals presented by UK universities and now teaches on a cultural economy Masters at the
University of Leeds. Her research interests include film, history, cultural studies, knowledge exchange, the politics of the cultural economy and non-hierarchical models of organising.

**Mimi and Janet | Justice 4 Domestic Workers**
Mimi and Janet are members of The Voice of Domestic Workers. Formerly Justice 4 Domestic Workers (J4DW), this self-help grass-roots organisation has just achieved charitable status and changed its name.

There are 16000 foreign domestic workers in the UK, mainly women from the Philippines, Indonesia, India or North Africa. In 2009 they started J4DW, to provide mutual support, fight for their rights, and raise awareness about modern slavery. Despite isolation and long working hours, these women campaign tirelessly and creatively against discrimination and abuse. They organise street demonstrations, media appearances, and picnics. They are in a trade union. They take on the courts, the immigration laws, the Houses of Parliament – then perform midnight rescues of desperate women locked up as household slaves.

“Are we victims or WORKERS whose rights and dignity had been denied and taken away?”
“We are here to fight, never give up!”. For more info visit: [https://www.j4dw.com](https://www.j4dw.com) and [https://www.facebook.com/The-Voice-of-Domestic-Workers-456016897839252/](https://www.facebook.com/The-Voice-of-Domestic-Workers-456016897839252/)

**Paul Cooke | University of Leeds**
Paul Cooke is Centenary Chair of World Cinemas at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *Representing East Germany: From Colonization to Nostalgia* (2005) and Contemporary German Cinema (2012). His edited volumes include *World Cinema’s ‘Dialogues; with Hollywood* (2007), *The Lives of Others and Contemporary German Film* (2013), with Marc Silberman, *Screening War: Perspectives on German Suffering* (2012) and with Rob Stone, *Screening European Heritage: Creating and Consuming History on Film* (2017). He is currently involved in an AHRC project exploring the role of film as a tool for the generation of ‘Soft Power’ across the BRICS group of emerging nations and is beginning an AHRC project working with marginalised groups in South Africa, Brazil and India to use filmmaking as a tool to challenge their nation’s ‘Soft Power narratives’.

**Terry Wragg | Leeds Animation Workshop**
Terry Wragg is a film-maker, and a director of Leeds Animation Workshop, the women’s co-operative she helped to establish in the late 1970s. Set up to produce and distribute animated films on social issues from a radical and feminist perspective, the Workshop remains an independent, not-for-profit co-operative run by women. In addition to local and regional activities related to film exhibition, education and training, it has produced over 40 short films, to professional broadcast standard, most of which remain in distribution.

Subjects include violence against women, sexism, racism, equality at work; global poverty and famine; climate change; parenting; child abuse; bereavement; prison; and support for people with learning disabilities. The films, designed to provoke questions and raise awareness in an engaging and accessible way, have been seen by many thousands of people, throughout the UK and around the world. [www.leedsanimation.org.uk](http://www.leedsanimation.org.uk)

*Front Page Image Credit: Still from “They Call Us Maids: The Domestic Workers’ Story”*