



Aesthetics of Early Sound Film: Media Change around 1930
University of Zurich, Department of Film Studies
June 3–5, 2021

International Conference *within the Doctoral Program*
«Dispositives of Vision: Cinema, Photography, and other Media» (UZH / UNIL)

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

14:45 Get-together on Zoom / Technical check-up for speakers

15:00 Daniel Wiegand, Jessica Berry, Nadine Soraya Vafi (University of Zurich)
Welcome and Introduction

15:15 Visual Aesthetics

Katharina Loew (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Expressive Visual Effects from Silent to Sound Film

Lea Jacobs (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Staging and Cinematography in the Period of Multiple-Camera Shooting: the Example of ARROWSMITH (John Ford, USA 1931)

16:15 30 Minutes Break

16:45 Theory and Practice

Oksana Bulgakowa (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz)
Futurists and 'Homogenizers' in the Early Soviet Sound Film

Michael Slowik (Wesleyan University)
"To Select, To Organize, To Sharpen": Rouben Mamoulian, Sound Film Theory, and APPLAUSE (USA, 1929)

17:45 60 Minutes Break

18:45 Multilingualism

Maria Adorno (University of Cologne)
The Mimetic Attempt of Multiple Versions (1929-32)

Jessica Berry (University of Zurich)
DIE NACHT GEHÖRT UNS (Carl Froelich, Germany 1929) and Multilingual Reception in Switzerland

19:45 End of Day 1

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

14:45 Animation

Donald Crafton (University of Notre Dame)
From the Lexigraphic to the Melomaniac: The Accommodations to Sound in Studio Animation

15:30 30 Minutes Break

16:00 Noises and Silence

Nadine Soraya Vafi (University of Zurich)
Metropolitan Noise: Urban Representations in the Early Italian Sound Film GLI UOMINI CHE MASCALZONI (Mario Camerini, IT 1932)

Martin Holtz (University of Graz)
The Sounds of War: Reflections on 1930's WWI films

(Short break)

Bahar Sarıoğlu (independent scholar)
Potentials of Expressive Silences in Early Sound Film

17:45 60 Minutes Break

18:45 Media Reflexivity

Selina Hangartner (University of Zurich)
Irony and Reflexivity in Mainstream Cinema: The Case of Early German Sound Films

Jörg Schweinitz (University of Zurich)
Reporters, Radio Waves and the Dispersed Audience. Visual Formulas and Narratives on the Radio in Early Sound Cinema

19:45 End of Day 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

15:00 Production/Exhibition

Johan Nordström (Tsuru University)
Sound in the Early Talkies of Studio P.C.L.

Audrey Hostettler (University of Lausanne)
Classroom Film Practices and the Transition to Sound in Switzerland

16:00 30 Minutes Break

16:30 Music

Martin Barnier (University of Lyon)

Early Sound Films in France, Context and Experiment (1929–1934)

Daniel Wiegand (University of Zurich)

“How Did the Music Get to the Fish Market?” On the Question of the Musical Score in Early German Sound Films (1929–1931)

17:30 60 Minutes Break

18:30 Documentary

Alexander J. Klemm (King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang)

Exploring Voiceover Commentaries in US American Travelogues Set in Siam during the Early Sound Film Era

Irina Leimbacher (Keene State College)

“Talking Photographs” and the Ambivalence towards Speech in Early Anglophone Documentary

19:30 Concluding Discussion