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World Cinema on the Border: Reconfiguring Human Bodies in Films of Global Migration

Today, transnational movements of human bodies are experienced in increasingly multiple and complex forms: through the figures of economic migrant, war refugee, asylum seeker, political exile, international trader, cosmopolitan tourist, or terrorist. This panel focuses on the role of contemporary world cinema in documenting the intensifying traffic of people across borders. What political, economic, and cultural conditions are identified in films about border-crossing, as driving forces behind human mobility in globalization? How are migrant journeys cinematically represented? How is the world on the other side of the border imagined? How is our shifting sense of time and space in transitory experience articulated? How are altered senses of identity and fragmentary subjectivity embodied in cinematic terms? What are our responsibilities towards the strangers who live among/within us, according to these films? This panel explores such questions by emphasizing multiple modes of critical inquiry at the juncture between cinema and border.