

Postdoctoral research projects (Human Resources PN II)

The role of generic panels in European small cinemas

PN-II-RU-PD-2012-3-0199 (1 May 2013 – 31 October 2015)

SCIENTIFIC REPORT (JANUARY-APRIL 2014)

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Scientific report regarding the implementation of the project in the period JANUARY-APRIL 2013

General objectives of the project: Arguing for the hypothesis that generic elements and formulas play an important role in European small cinema industries too, in our contemporary era of digital interconnectivity. Five international conference presentations and five articles in scientific journals are targeted, as well as the manuscript of a monograph-type volume presented for peer-review at the end of the project.

The original research plan presented in April 2012 (for the period October 2012-September 2014)

2012, October-December. Contemporary Romanian and Hungarian cinema as examples of European small cinemas (preparatory phase), as well re-interpretations of the genre of melodrama, with a focus on films by Radu Muntean. Processing the applicant's existing research material, and gathering further relevant material in Romanian, made possible by a two-week research visit to the Romanian Film Archive and/or the library of the I. L. Caragiale National Film School (Bucharest).

2013 January-June. Contemporary Romanian and Hungarian cinema as examples of European small cinemas (final phase). Analysis of crime and detection genre re-workings (preparatory phase). Further material gathered during a two-week research visit to the Hungarian Film Institute's Library (Budapest).

2013 July-December. Analysis of crime and detection re-workings (final phase). Theorizing science fiction in mainstream vs. small cinemas. Processing of research material and also intensive online research, with two possible short trips to Bucharest and Budapest for lacking material and data.

2014 January-June. The representation/conceptualization of the analog-digital turn in examples of small cinemas employing film generic panels. Processing of existing material, intensive online research, incorporating results to presentations and publications resulted from the research up to that moment. This media theoretical perspective, combined with contemporary film genre research, means a serious involvement with a rapidly changing field of international research, therefore a two-week research visit is programmed to the British Film Institute (London).

2014, July-September. Based on material gathered, presentations given and the articles written and submitted, as well as by incorporating reactions of the project's mentor, a monograph-type volume is prepared for publication, with the working title: "The role of generic panels in small cinemas in Europe". The manuscript of the volume is submitted for first review by the closing date of the project.

The actual implementation of the previous activities in the period January-April 2014

1. A research stage at the Central European University Library in Budapest, Hungary, was carried out in February 2014, with the aim of documentation.
2. In this period no conference presentations were carried out, emphasis being laid on documentation, editing texts and abstracts, as well as preparing for the three international conference presentations planned for the second phase in 2014 (May-August).
3. The research topics were covered in the following manner:
 - a. "Hungarian and Romanian cinemas as small cinemas" : the manuscript is in its phase of first draft, being the starting point for the workshop *Cultural Studies Approaches in the Study of Eastern European Cinemas*, and it will also constitute the introductory part of the monograph to be prepared at the end of the project in 2015 (two conference presentations in the topic being effectuated in 2013, see previous reports).

A review-type article of a volume on contemporary Hungarian cinema was published in the November 2013 edition of *TNTeF - An Interdisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies* edited by

Szeged University, Hungary, and it can be accessed here:

<http://tntefjournal.hu/vol3/iss2/virginas.pdf>

Another review of three scientific volumes on (Eastern) European film industries was published in the online film and television studies journal of Nottingham University, GB, *Scope*, and it can be accessed here: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/scope/documents/2014/february/book-rev-feb-2014.pdf>.

b. “Small crime and detection”: a first attempt at conceptualizing the problematic, in the form of a comparative theoretical article passed through peer-review and editing at the Taylor and Francis journal *SEEC (Studies in Eastern European Cinema)*, with publication in 2014. A second manuscript in this subtopic was sent for peer review for the online journal *NECSUS*, <http://www.necsus-ejms.org/>, with a probable answer in May 2014. A third article will be probably presented in May 2014 for an English-language volume, edited by Martina Vranova and Zeno Vernyik (Liberec University, Czech Republic), for Cambridge Scholars Publishers.

c. “Small science-fiction”: a first attempt of conceptualization, in the form of another comparative article, has passed peer review and editing at the *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae Film and Media Studies*, <http://www.acta.sapientia.ro/acta-film/film-main.htm>, edited in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with publication in 2014. Another abstract proposal was accepted for peer review and possibly editing by *HJEAS - Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies* edited by Debrecen University, Hungary, with a deadline in July 2014.

Detailed scientific activities

a. Conference presentations

In this phase no conference presentations were effectuated.

b. Abstracts accepted for presentation at conferences

In this moment the following abstracts have been accepted for oral presentation (and/or panel organization) at international conferences in 2014:

1. The “Burden of the Real” in Eastern European and Scandinavian Genre Films: Dancing Bodies, Endoscopy and Knitwear. *Film-Philosophy Conference: Thinking Time and Reality through Film*, Lisbon University, Portugal, May 2014.
2. Female Stars, Men's Films? Romanian Films from the 2000s. *Bodies in Between Conference*, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, May 2014.
3. Generic Panels in European Small Cinemas: a Recipe for Creative Outcomes? *NECS Annual Conference*, Milano, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy, June 2014.
4. Cultural Studies Approaches in the Study of East European Cinema. *ESSE 2014 Kosice Conference*, Slovakia (roundtable, together with György Kalmár and Zsolt Győri, Debrecen University).

c. Scientific articles: texts gone through peer-review, accepted for publication, in the phase of editing or linguistic revision

1. Moments of trauma for female heroines in Eastern European settings: a comparative interpretation of five films by Szabolcs Hajdu, David Lynch, Cristian Mungiu and Peter Strickland. Forthcoming in *Studies in Eastern European Cinema 2* (2014).
<http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals/view-Journal,id=176/>
2. Embodied genetics in science-fiction, big-budget to low-budget: from Jeunet’s *Alien: Resurrection* (1997) to Piccinini’s *Workshop* (2011). Forthcoming in *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae, Film and Media Studies*, 8 (2014). <http://www.acta.sapientia.ro/acta-film/film-main.htm>
3. Screens “as representation” and screens “as simulation” in mainstream cinema detection: between *Blade Runner* (1982) and *Splice* (2009). Forthcoming in *The Nordic Journal of Aesthetics*, 2014, <http://nsae.au.dk/journal/about/> .
4. On the medial coding of traces: “immediate” and “hypermediate” detection, or Katalin Varga and Lisbeth Salander. *Necsus* The journal of NECS, the Network for European Film and Media Studies, Amsterdam UP. Currently in peer-review.

d. Abstracts gone through peer review

1. 'Regional' humans and aliens: contemporary Hollywood, Scandinavian and Eastern European examples. *HJEAS - Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*, Debrecen University, Hungary, deadline: July 2014.

Financial report

Overhead: In this first phase of 2014 (January-April) I worked on the project's webpage (<http://film.sapientia.ro/en/research-programs/individual-research-project-virginas-andrea-the-role-of-generic-panels-in-european-small-cinemas>), at managing the travelling and I prepared the report of the phase.

Logistics: In this period there were no logistics elements purchased.

Travelling: In this first intermediary phase of the year 2014 I effectuated a research stage at the Central European University Library in Budapest, Hungary (Cluj-Napoca-Budapest).

Personal: See the attached table for PI and mentor salaries.

Project director,

Virginás Andrea