

Postdoctoral research projects (Human Resources PN II)

The role of generic panels in European small cinemas

PN-II-RU-PD-2012-3-0199 (1st May 2013 – 30th April 2015)

SCIENTIFIC REPORT (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2013)

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Scientific report regarding the implementation of the project in the period SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 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 September-December 2013

1. A research period in the library of the Central European University, Budapest was carried out in the second phase of 2013, between 21-25 November, see details below.

2. Five conference presentations in the project thematic were effectuated in this first year of the project: three of these presentations were planned and funded from the PD project (Prague, Manchester: May-August 2013, Lund: September-December 2013), furthermore an oral presentation took place at the host institution's international conference, and finally the PI was invited as a guest speaker at a conference in Czech Republic, with the possibility of disseminating project results (Liberec, Czech Republic, November 2013).

3. The research topics were covered in the following manner:

a. "Hungarian and Romanian cinemas as small cinemas" was presented in a first version at the ECREA (European Communication and Research Education Association) – Film Studies section bi-annual conference, organized at Lund University, Sweden, see details below. A review type article of new volumes referring to (East) European film industries underwent peer-review and it

is in editing phase at Nottingham University's online journal of film and television studies, *Scope*, <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cfm/research/scope.aspx>, see details below. Another review article of a monograph about contemporary Hungarian cinema is in editing phase at the online scientific journal TNTeF, <http://tntefjournal.hu/index.html>, edited by Szeged University, Hungary, see details below.

b. “Small melodramas” was presented at the annual NECS conference in Prague, and the manuscript is in its first draft phase, see details below. Some elements of this subtopic were included in the ECREA conference presentation, see details below.

c. “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)*, see details below. A second manuscript in this subtopic was sent as an abstract proposal for the online journal *NECSUS*, <http://www.necsus-ejms.org/>, accepted, and the full text needs to be presented in February 2014.

d. “Small science-fiction”: a first attempt of conceptualization, in the form of another comparative article, has passed peer review and editing at the scientific journal *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae Film and Media Studies*, <http://www.acta.sapientia.ro/acta-film/film-main.htm>, edited in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, see details below.

Detailed scientific activities

a. Conference presentations

In the second phase of the 2013 project year I participated with oral presentations, and also as a chair in one case, at two international conferences:

1. Analogue and digital, immediate and hypermediate: examples from contemporary detection (and science-fiction). *Rethinking Intermediality in the Digital Age. Conference of the International Society for Intermedial Studies*, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca, 24-26 October 2013. Oral presentation. Web page:

<http://film.sapientia.ro/hu/konferenciak/rethinking-intermediality-in-the-digital-age> . PowerPoint presentation attached, and uploaded on project website.

This presentation is the first attempt at conceptualizing the difference between the analogue and the digital paradigm in the context of investigation movies, from the perspective of generic elements in small European cinemas and also global, Hollywood examples.

2. Generic panels and small cinemas: Scandinavian and Eastern European examples. *European Film Cultures. ECREA Film Studies Section Interim Conference*, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, Sweden, 8-9 November, 2013. Oral presentation. Webpage: <http://conference.sol.lu.se/en/ecrea-film2013> . PowerPoint presentation attached, and uploaded on project website .

This presentation is the first version of the description referring to such Eastern European national cinemas (the Hungarian and the Romanian one) based on the model offered by the concept of small cinemas.

b. Abstracts accepted for presentation at conferences

In this moment a single abstract proposal of mine is accepted for presentation at an international conference in 2014:

1. 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. Review of Anikó Imre (ed.) *A Companion to Eastern European Cinemas*, Ewa Mazierska *European Cinema and Intertextuality: History, Memory and Politics*, Daniela Berghahn & Claudia Sternberg (ed.) *European Cinema in Motion. Migrant and Diasporic Film in Contemporary Europe*. Forthcoming in *Scope* October 2013, <http://www.scope.nottingham.ac.uk>
4. Review of Beata Hock *Gendered Artistic Positions and Social Voices. Politics, Cinema and the Visual Arts in State-Socialist and Post-Socialist Hungary*. Forthcoming in *TNTeF Interdisciplinary eJournal of Gender Studies*, issue 2, 2013, <http://www.tntefjournal.hu/en/index.html#current>
5. 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/> .

d. Abstracts gone through peer review

1. 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. The article must be presented in February 2014.

Financial report

Overhead: In the second phase of 2013 (September-December) 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>), on uploading data on the evoc project-administration page, on managing travelling issues, and on finalizing the subscription to Project Muse Humanities Collection 2014. I finalized the report for the year 2013.

Logistics: The subscription for Project Muse Humanities Collection was paid at the end of November 2013, see details on the financial table, the subscription being effective from December 2013/January 2014.

Travelling: In this second phase in 2013 I participated at one international conference with an oral presentation (Cluj-Napoca-Lund), and I also effectuated a research stage at the Central European University's Library.

Personnel/salaries: See the attached table for PI and mentor salaries for the September-December 2013 phase.

Project director

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