



University of Cyprus  
Department of English Studies

Department of English Studies  
“University of Diaspora” Symposium

## CINEMATIC RECLAMATIONS:

The human in an inhuman/non-human/post-human world

Saturday 26 November 2022

10am – 5pm

(University of Cyprus Aglantzia Campus, Building XΩΔ02 B211)

Organizers:

Dr Markos Hadjioannou (Duke University)

Dr Evi Haggipavlu (University of Cyprus)

This Symposium forms part of a series of events and workshops organized by the Department of English Studies of the University of Cyprus as part of Dr Markos Hadjioannou’s visit to the Department within the context of the UCY program “University of Diaspora.” The organizers, Dr Hadjioannou and Dr Haggipavlu, aim for the Symposium to offer students and other participants the opportunity to engage in an intellectually stimulating, fruitful, and lively dialogue on the question of the “human” in today’s world, with a special focus on the role cinema has played in this debate. For a more detailed description of the conceptual framework of the Symposium, please see below.

The Symposium is open to the public, but pre-registration is required. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to: [lasetta.georgia@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:lasetta.georgia@ucy.ac.cy).

## Symposium Description

Throughout humanistic discourse, the “human” has been the central figure of philosophical thinking, or the primary category from which our sense of being in culture and society has evolved. Within this long history of thought, what the “human” means has wavered significantly based on the position a thinker takes on various matters and the corresponding historical period from which this thinking originates. How we begin to describe the “human” has thus been influenced, across time, by a plethora of debates within different disciplines and lines of exploration related to, amongst others:

- the influences of mythology, religion, and belief
- the analysis of aesthetic, technical/technological, and linguistic practices and experiences
- the ethical conundrum of our (in)ability to understand, interpret, and define reality, time, and existence
- the critique of history, epistemology, and metaphysics
- the recognition and consideration of the “subject” in relation to the constant and complex diversity of human “identities” and its embodied status
- the persistent importance and concerns related to gender, sexuality, ethnic and racial divisions and inequalities
- the relationship between the human and the environment
- the exclusionary practices and power imbalances engendered by binary thought, especially as seen in its treatment of pairings like old and new, same and different, mind and body, origin/original and copy, and “self” and “other”
- the significance of the relationship between distance and proximity within developments of Philosophy, Film Theory, History/Historiography and Criticism
- the (re)thinking of “the human” not necessarily and only in individual terms but as a plurality, a community, a collectivity, and as bound to the earth and the social/historical world
- the radical politics of difference of the 1960s and ‘70s and its challenges against monolithic, monologic, unidimensional and privileged understandings of the human, ultimately ushering in an emphasis on intersectionality and intersubjectivity
- and, in more recent years, the excited hopefulness of **posthumanism** as it relates to the decentralizing potentialities of computational media or the metaphysical projections of feminist new materialism
- but also, the resurgence of a skepticism related to the prevalence of a **non-humanism** that has allowed for the rise of an **inhuman** world, one characterized by environmental devastation and the annihilation of species; political unrest, nationalism and ensuing migrant crises; and an economic dependence on, and subservience to, algorithmic technologies and artificial intelligence.

Using a variety of critical frameworks and perspectives such as Affect Theory, Post-humanist Theory, Existentialism, Feminist Theory and Criticism, Eco-Criticism, the Intersectional paradigm, and Film History/Historiography and Criticism among others, this symposium will explore the place of the “human” in today’s world and in current thought, placing an emphasis on the role cinema has played, has been playing, and/or could play to reclaim the human.

## Symposium Schedule

**10.00-10.30: Coffee**

**10.30-10.45**

**Opening Remarks**

Dr. Stella Achilleos, Chair of the Department of English Studies

**10.45-11.30**

**Panel 1: Time/History**

Discussion of:

*La Jetee* (Chris Marker, 1965)

*The Watermelon Woman* (Cheryl Dunye, 1995)

Participants: Elena Pitsillidou, Gina Agapiou, Maria Georgiou

Moderators: Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu

**11.30-12.15**

**Panel 2: Body Horror**

Discussion of:

*The Stepford Wives* (Bryan Forbes, 1975)

*Us* (Jordan Peele, 2019)

Participants: Lina Protopapa, Skevi Kontozi, Andria Xenofontos, Mary Orfanou, Anna Ntamotsidou, Eleni Stylianou

Moderators: Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu

**12.15-1.00**

**Panel 3: Eco-Cinema**

Discussion of:

*Stalker* (Andrei Tarkovsky, 1979)

*The Gleaners and I* (Agnes Varda, 2000)

Participants: Anthi Ermogenidou, Eleni Zisimou, Kyriakos Christophorou, Elisavet Simonian

Moderators: Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu

**1.00-2.30: Lunch**

## **2.30-3.15**

### **Panel 4: Conundrums**

Discussion of:

*Mulholland Drive* (David Lynch, 2001)

*The Headless Woman* (Lucretia Martel, 2008)

Participants: Marina Tsangari, Myria Theodorou, Antri Antoniou, Konstantina Aintinidou, Illiana Ilie

Moderators: Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu

## **3.15-4.00**

### **Panel 5: Homelessness**

Discussion of:

*White Material* (Claire Denis, 2009)

*Roma* (Alfonso Cuaron, 2018)

Participants: Christina Zacharia, Vasileia Anaxagorou, Andrea Papouri, Erman Dolmaci

Moderators: Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu

## **4.00-4.30**

### **Final Thoughts and Closing Remarks**

Markos Hadjioannou and Evi Haggipavlu