

The Framing of Second Cinema: Real Space, Right Now

Deborah Dixon, University of Wales, Aberystwyth (Co-presenter)

John Grimes, Louisiana State University (Co-presenter)

In this paper, we focus on the workings of Second Cinema -- a genre that adopts a political-ethical stance in regard to the representation of 'real' peoples and places -- and in particular the socio-spatial relationalities that are posited in particular accounts of the 'rural.' In doing so, we adopt several strands of anti-essentialist thought, a body of literature that, in regard to cinematic geographies, has hinged on the mobilization of mobility as a concept through which the production, representation and spectatorship of film can be explored. Using our interviews with several 'rural' film-makers as the basic for our analysis, we note how and why particular moments of mobility and transition are valorized over and against others, and address the angst and anxiety expressed over this genre's particular preoccupation with the fixity of cinematic form and content.