Cinema, Controversy, Censorship Lecture 4: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy: Audiences



Lecture 1: Theories and concepts

Lecture 2: Cinema Censorship I: USA and Hollywood pictures around the world

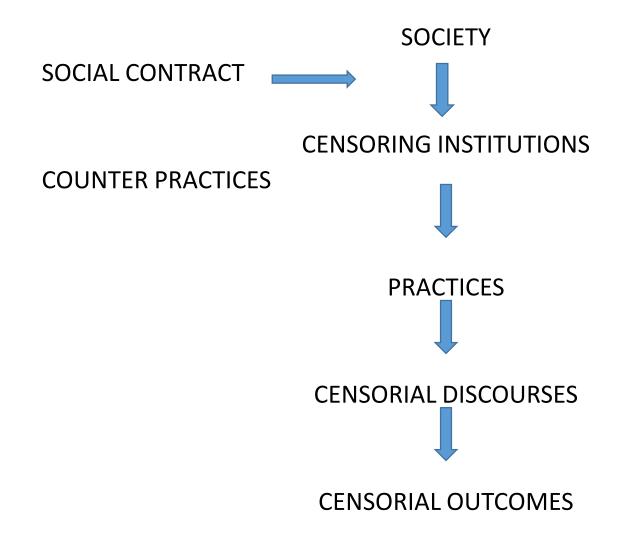
Lecture 3: Cinema Censorship II: varieties of control, censorship, discipline, surveillance

Lecture 4: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy I: Audiences

Lecture 5: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy II: case risqué/sex

cinema

Censorial model – Institutional? Top down?



Lecture 1: Theories and concepts

Lecture 2: Cinema Censorship I: USA and Hollywood pictures around the world

Lecture 3: Cinema Censorship II: varieties of control, censorship, discipline, surveillance

Lecture 4: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy I: Audiences

Lecture 5: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy II: case risqué/sex cinema





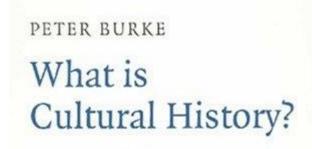
1. New cinema history

Failure of a discipline?

"Despite the extensive historical analysis of early cinema, a recently-published 976-page history of late Victorian and Edwardian England devotes **only one paragraph to cinema**, providing a telling instance of the extent to which social and cultural historians have not yet found it necessary to address the historical work on early cinema (Searle, passim). In his 2004 introductory survey, *What is Cultural History?*, Peter Burke makes **no mention of any work on cinema**."

R. Maltby, How Can Cinema History Matter More?

http://www.screeningthepast.com/2015/01/how-can-cinema-history-matter-more/





Need for historical work on film audiences

"Film history has been written as if films had no audiences or were seen by everyone and in the same way, or as if however they were viewed and by whoever, the history of 'films' was distinct from and privileged over the history of their being taken up by billions of people who have watched them since 1894."

Robert C. Allen (1990)



Cinema history from below

"For cinema history to matter more, it must engage with the social history of which it is part, not through the practices of textual interpretation, but by attempting to write cinema history from below; that is, to write histories that are concerned not with the kings and queens of Hollywood but with their audiences and with the roles that these performances of celebrity played in the ordinary imaginations of those audiences."

Richard Maltby (2006)



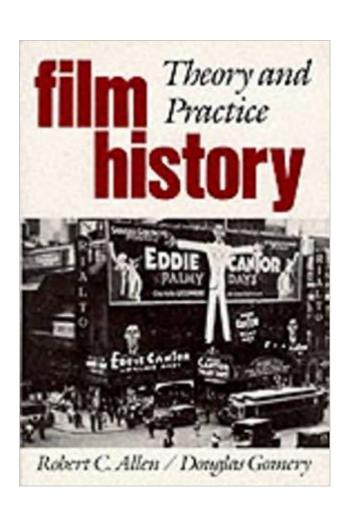
Film history vs. cinema history

"... terminological and methodological distinction between film history and cinema history: between an aesthetic history of textual relations between individuals or individual objects, and the social history of a cultural institution."

Richard Maltby (2006)

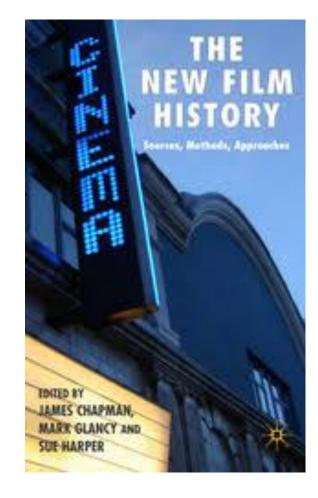


Film/cinema historiography: research strands



Classical film history

New revisionist film history



Film/cinema historiography: research strands

- Classical film history
- New revisionist film history
- New cinema history
 - Contextual cinema analysis
 - Defocus the film
 - Focus on distribution, exhibition, programming, cinema-going experiences, audiences
 - Bottom-up approach
 - The spatial turn in film and media studies
 - Multidisciplinary empirical methods, digital tools, large databases





Edited by Daniël Biltereyst, Richard Maltby and Philippe Meers

http://homernetwork.org/dhp-projects/homer-projects-2/

The HoMER Network

History of Moviegoing, Exhibition and Reception [under construction]

SUBMIT PROJECT ABOUT MEETINGS REGISTER DATASET DIGITAL HOMER



HOMER Projects Layer Sliders Fullscreen Legends " Visualizations **

HOMER Projects

Leave a reply

These visualisations of HoMER projects use the DH Press plugin for WordPress, developed by the Digital Innovation Lab at the University of North Carolina.

This page works best on Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome. Internet Explorer users may not be able to see the content. Apologies for the inconvenience.

RECENT POSTS

Search

Call for Papers: What is Cinema History?

New HOMER Website

Please note that overlapping markers may be hidden - use search boy to find specific

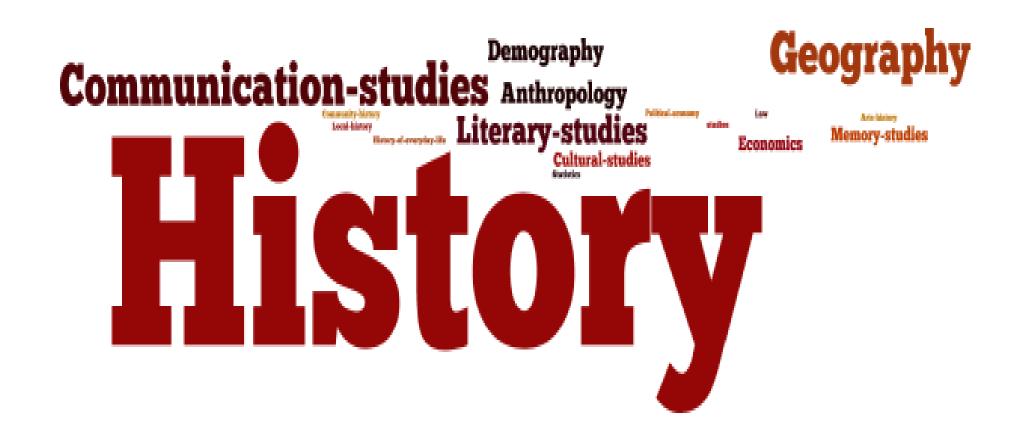
Question of sources



Questions of methods



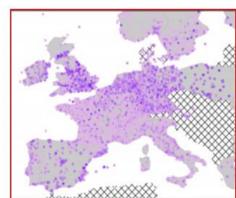
Questions of disciplines



Questions on digital tools for research and valorisation







INTRODUCING THE HOBBIT YEAR

We have a calendar year, a financial year, and a year of the monkey. Why not a Hobbit year? The Kinomatics project has been



KINOMATICS IN THE MEDIA

The Kinomatics project has made it into the media this past few weeks. A story in Brussels news outlet Brussel Nieuws has



THE AUSTRALIAN CINEMA CENSUS

The Kinomatics team has been working with fliks.com.au on the recently launched online

<u>Title</u>	Title English	Production Year	
Three Ring Marriage	Three Ring Marriage	1928	View
Shootin' Irons	Shootin' Irons	1927	View
Wild Party, The (Talkie)	Wild Party, The (Talkie)	1929	View
Mother Knows Best (Silent)	Mother Knows Best (Silent)	1928	View
God's Clay	God's Clay	1928	View
Love and the Devil	Love and the Devil	1929	View
Man Who Laughs, The	Man Who Laughs, The	1928	View
Square Shoulders (Talkie)	Square Shoulders (Talkie)	1929	View
Widicombe Fair	Widicombe Fair	1928	View
Harold Teen	Harold Teen	1928	View
My Lady of Whims	My Lady of Whims	1925	View
His Lucky Day	His Lucky Day	1929	View
Family Group, The	Family Group, The	1928	View
Borrowed Finery	Borrowed Finery	1925	View
Man of the Forest	Man of the Forest	1926	View
Lost in the Arctic	Lost in the Arctic	1928	View
Across the Atlantic	Across the Atlantic	1928	View
Won In The Clouds	Won In The Clouds	1928	View
Butterflies in the Rain	Butterflies in the Rain	1926	View
Charge of the Gauchos, The	Charge of the Gauchos, The	1928	View
Do Your Duty	Do Your Duty	1928	View
Triumph of the Rat	Triumph of the Rat	1926	View
Outcast	Outcast	1928	View
Annie Laurie	Annie Laurie	1927	View
Strong Boy	Strong Boy	1929	View
Without Mercy	Without Mercy	1925	View
Ladies of Leisure	Ladies of Leisure	1926	View
None But the Brave	None But the Brave	1928	View



Welcome to CAARP

Keyword Search

Keyword	
	Search

Search

Film Title	
	Search
Company Name	
	Search
Venue Name	
	Search

Visit the link below to search using a large range of fields

Advanced Search

A DOIAGO DATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

http://caarp.edu.au/about

THE LONDON PROJECT

The birth of the film business in London

AHRB Centre for

British Film and Television Home Studies

Search About: The Project London

Welcome to The London Project

The London Project is a major study of the film business in London, 1894-1914, organised by the AHRB Centre for British Film and Television Studies. The London Project has produced a searchable database documenting cinemas and film businesses in London before the First World War.

The London Project is examining how the new film industry developed in London, from the first peepshow Kinetoscope parlour in Oxford Street opened by Maguire & Baucus in October 1894, through to the building of studios in the suburbs and the dynamic spread of cinemas large and small throughout the city, as well as documenting London's leading role as a worldwide sales and distribution centre for film.



Find venues and film businesses by borough

Find out more about the project, or start searching.



Interior view of Hale's Tours, Oxford Street



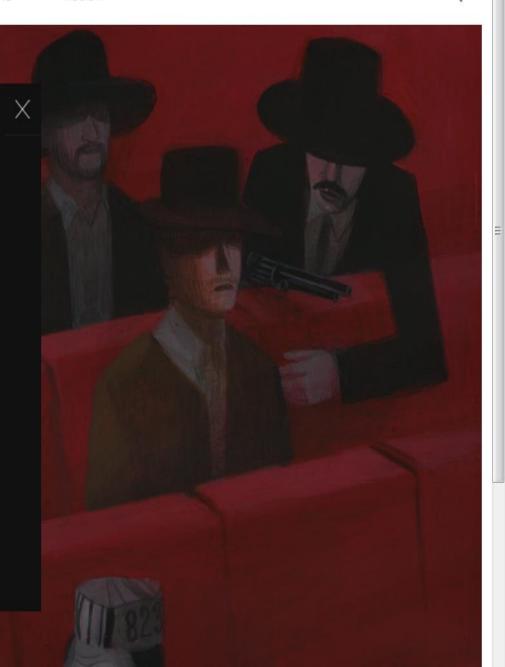
Offices of the Charles Urban Trading Company. Rupert Street

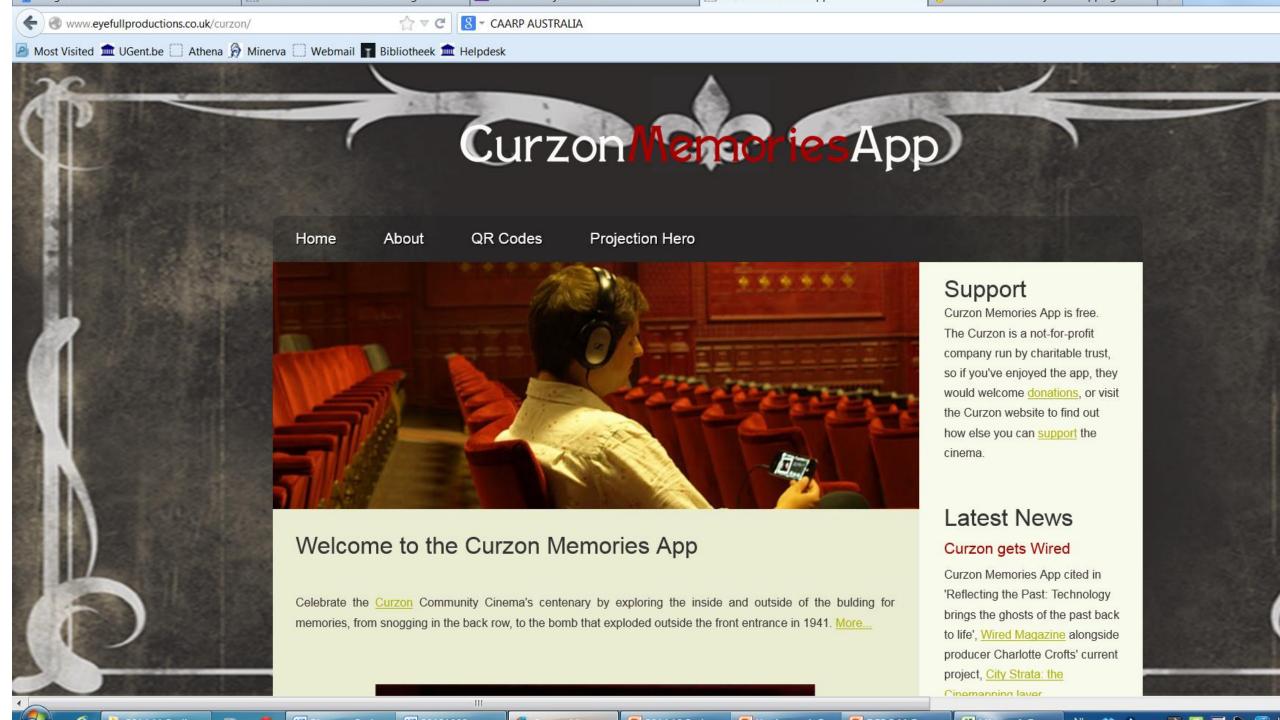


Cento anni di revisione cinematografica in Italia.

Mostra virtuale permanente promossa dalla Direzione Generale per il Cinema del MiBACT in collaborazione con la Fondazione CSC - Cineteca Nazionale.

ATTENZIONE. Questo sito contiene materiale per adulti che potrebbe risultare offensivo o illegale. Devi avere almeno 18 anni per accedere a queste pagine. Continuando la navigazione, dichiari di avere compiuto i 18 anni di età.





Italian Cinema Audiences

TEAM RESEARCH ▼ EVENTS ▼ MEMORIES ▼ DATA ▼ CONTACT



Cinematic Brno

Documentation of movie exhibition history and cinema-goers' preferences in Brno, 1918-1945

search

about the project research team concept

publications projects of the department related research news

login cesky

related research

Projekty jsou volně sdružené ve vědecké síti HOMER (History of Moviegoing, Exhibition, and Reception).

Cinema in Context

Karl Dibbets, Amsterdam

The Siegen Cinema Databases

Joseph Garncarz (Siegen, Germany)

John Sedgwick (London)

Cinema and Audiences in Australia Project (CAARP)

Birkbeck "Early London Film Businesses" database

Interaktivní geografický systém (ARCView Gis) věnovaný sociální a kulturní geografii diváctví - ve výstavbě Jeffrey Klenotic, University of New Hampshire, Manchester

The Moscow Theater Project Sasha Prokhorov, Lena Prokhorova

The Williamsburg Theater Project Arthur Knight, College of William & Mary

up



























































2. Grabbing the audience

1. Exhibition

- Questions: Location and physical sites... Structures... Who? Where? How?
- Methods / sorts of data...





sources

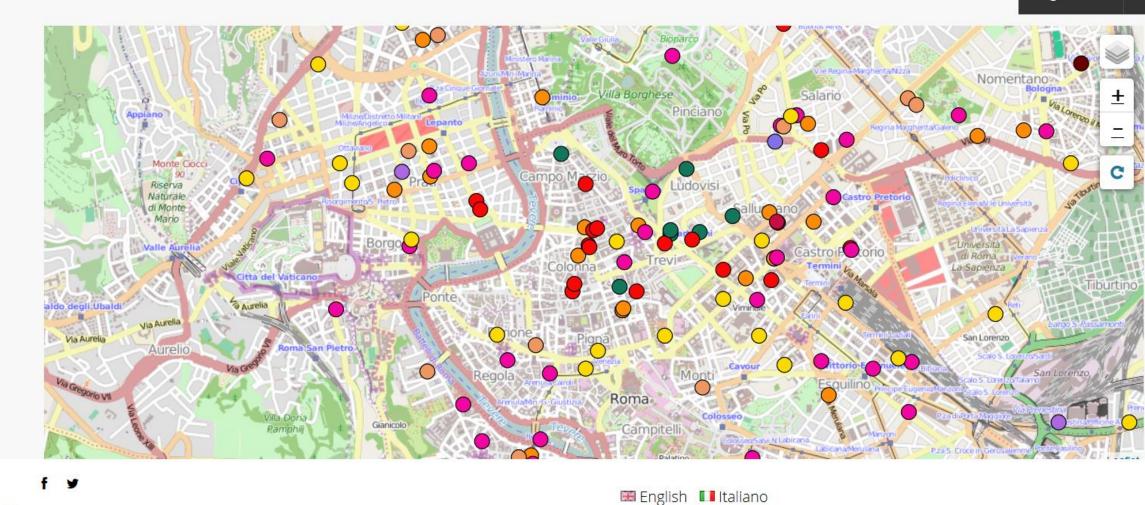
- maps
- (Industrial) yearbooks
- trade journals
- planning applications
- safety plans
- correspondence
- newspapers
- programme flyers
- photographs
- posters
- local publications
- etc.

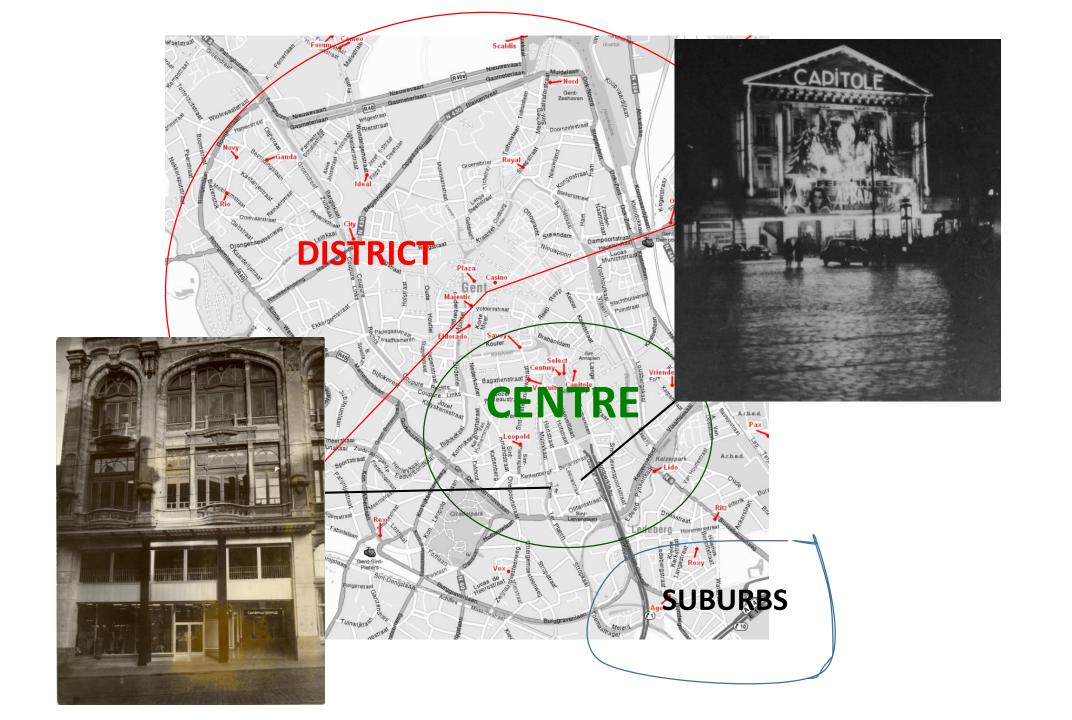
Italian Cinema Audiences

Cinema Theatres in Rome

TEAM RESEARCH ▼ EVENTS ▼ MEMO

Legends

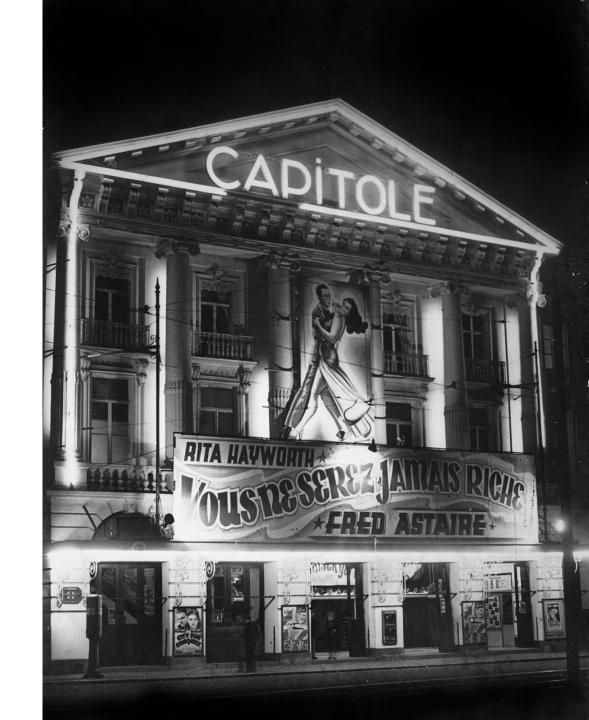




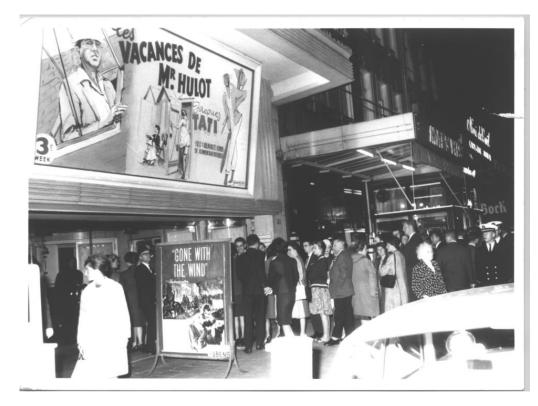
Variety of cinematic models

- place
- space
- audience composition
- programming
- audience's cinemagoing experiences
- audiences filmic reception

-



Urban vs. rural cinema exhibition



Antwerp, *Vendôme*, '50s (Private archive Paul Corluy)



Asse, advertisement for *Kinema Elisabeth*, (Heemkundige Kring Ascania)

Commercial and 'ideological' cinema exhibition



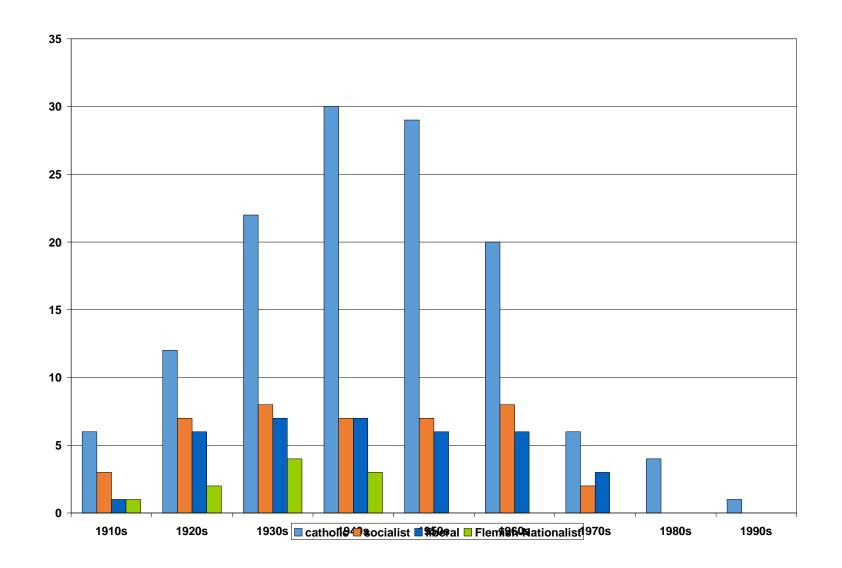
Ninove, Volkshuis *De Redding*, (Town archive Ninove)



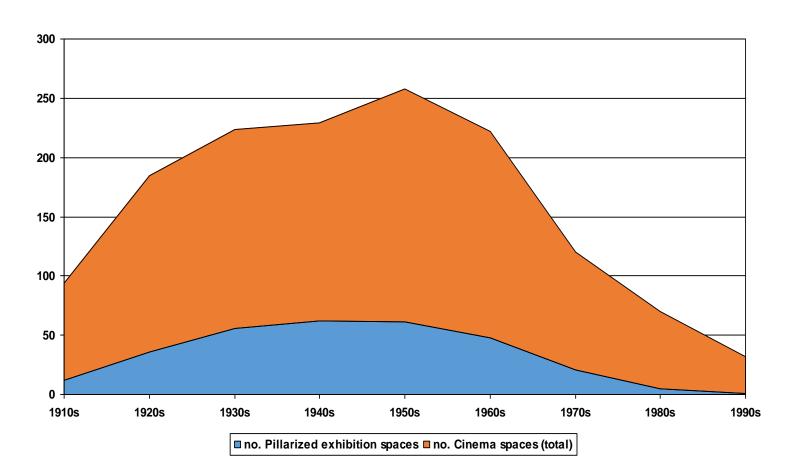
Dendermonde, cinema Paleis Koningshof, 1936

(Town archive Dendermonde)

Overview of pillars in 57 Flemish towns



Evolution of the number of cinema spaces and the number of pillarised exhibition spaces (case studies)



2. Programming

- Questions: how and what kind of movies were shown/performed? What kind of movies did people see?
- How did the movies travel?
- Methods / sorts of data...





jn praktische kijl

Filmleiding

zich alleen bevoegd om de zedelijke «IK BEN EEN VAGEBOND» t in een roman. keurt de programma's die tijdig wor- Voorbehoud om een tooneel. ootste moderne den toegezonden; hij houdt rekening «HET SCHANDAAL» - Dramati- fen (helaas

deze kategorieën is voorzichtig- die met J Cagney, Pat O'Brien en Gl. die in het

star in « I gaan bewo

LE QUESNOY -- THÉATRE MUNICIPAL

MODERN'-CINÉ PARLANT

Le Meilleur dans la plus Belle Salle de la Région

SAMEDI 3 FÉVRIER, Soirée à 20 h. 30 DIMANCHE 4, Matinée à 15 h. 30 - Soirée à 20 h. 30

France-Actualités-Gaumont

PLACIDE AU SÉRAIL (Dessin Animé)

2 GRANDS FILMS !

LE REFUGE

avec André Burgère, Pierre Etchepare et Alice Field

MAX DEARLY

DANS

AZAIS

Prix des Places : 8, 6, 5, 4 et 2,50 - Enfants 2,50 à toutes les places. - Location Gratuite

GAGNE TA VIE avec Victor Boucher

Bientôt : Deux Chefs-d'Œuvre,
-LE MAITRE DE FORGES de Georges Obnet & .LA ROBE ROUGE de B.-cox



```
1-04-1930 • Den Haag, Apollo 
9-05-1930 • Amsterdam, Tuschinski 
6-05-1930 • Amsterdam, Tuschinski 
23-05-1930 • Rotterdam, Grand Theatre 
80-05-1930 • Rotterdam, Grand Theatre 
96-06-1930 • Utrecht, Flora 
93-06-1930 • Leiden, Luxor 
94-06-1930 • Leiden, Luxor 
94-06-1930 • Rotterdam, Thalia (Hoogstraat) 
95-06-1930 • Rotterdam, Thalia (Hoogstraat)
```

4-04-1930 • Den Haag, Apollo ▶

programmes have been found. Click to view all records F



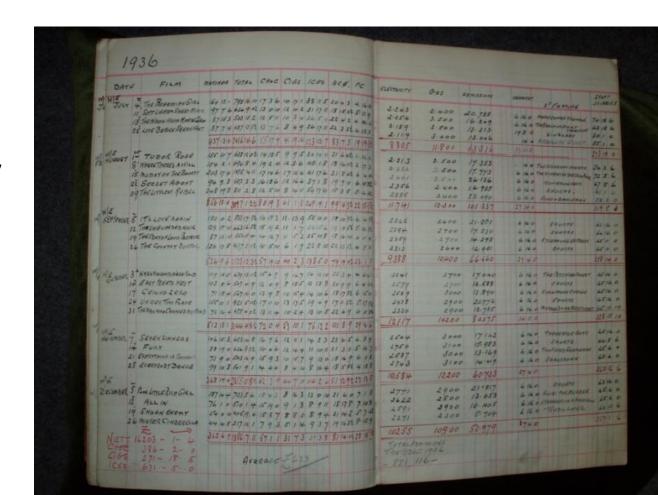
	Country	ProdYear	Len
1. Love Parade, The (1929)	USA	1929	
2. Lied ist aus, Das (1930)	D	1930	
3. Zwischen vierzehn und siebzehn (1929)	D	1929	
4. Duoi yan dar Tankatalla (1020)	_	1020	
4. Drei von der Tankstelle (1930)	D	1930	
5. Blaue Engel, Der (1930)	D	1930	
6. Atlantic (1929)	GB	1929	
7. Pagan, The (1929)	USA	1929	
8. Ich glaub nie mehr an eine Frau (1930)	D	1930	
9. Sous les toits de Paris (1930)	F	1930	
10. Dreyfus (1930)	D	1930	

Thanks to Karel Dibbets and Cinema Context

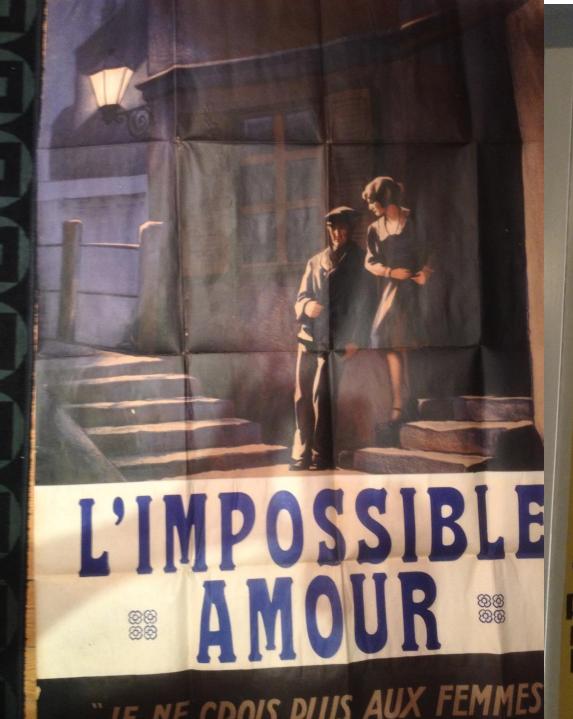
2. Programming

Quantitative approaches....

- Taxes
- Industry data
- Box-office revenues
- Cinema attendance
- ...
- e.g. John Sedwick PopStat... econometric approach... relative box-office revenues earned by any one film screened among a population of cinemas



Filmtitel	Aantal weken in	Herkomst	Jaar	Genre	Officiële	I
	roulatie				Filmkeuring	f
Chanson d'une nuit, La	18 weken	Duitsland/Oostenrijk	1932	muzikale komedie		voor
Ich glaub' nie mehr an eine Frau	16 weken	Duitsland	1930	drama	R	voor
Leise flehen meine Lieder	14 weken	Duitsland/Oostenrijk	1933	muzikale komedie	Α	voor
Alleen voor U	12 weken	België	1935	muzikale komedie	Α	voor
Land des Lächelns, Das	12 weken	Duitsland	1930	musical	R	voor
Lockende Ziel, Das	12 weken	Duitsland	1930	dramatische komedie		voor
Mon coeur t'appelle	12 weken	Frankrijk	1934	muzikale komedie		voor
Tout pour l'amour	12 weken	Duitsland	1933	vaudeville	Α	voor
Blaue vom Himmel, Das	11 weken	Duitsland	1932	operette		onge
Gräfin Mariza	11 weken	Duitsland	1932	operette		voor
Moi et l'impératrice	11 weken	Duitsland	1933	operette	Α	voor
Over the Hill	11 weken	VSA	1931	drama		voor
Wenn du jung bist, gehörd dir die	11 weken	Oostenrijk	1934	muzikale komedie	Α	
Divine Spark, The	10 weken	GB/Italië	1935	romantisch drama	Α	voor
Frasquita	10 weken	Oostenrijk	1934	komedie-operette	R	voor
Heure Près de Toi, Une	10 weken	VSA	1932	komedie	R	voor
Liebeskommando	10 weken	Duitsland	1931	operette		voor
Madame Butterfly	10 weken	VSA	1932	psychologisch drama		voor
Maître de forges, Le	10 weken	Frankrijk	1933	melodrama		voor
One Night of Love	10 weken	VSA	1934	muzikale komedie		voor
Southern Maid, A	10 weken	GB	1933	komedie		voor
Traum von Schönbrunn	10 weken	Oostenrijk	1932	operette		voor
Viktoria und ihr Husar	10 weken	Duitsland		muzikale komedie		voor
Bleeke Bet	9 weken	Nederland		volkse tragedie-komedie	Α	voor
Caravane	9 weken	Frankrijk/Oostenrijk/VSA	1934	operette		voor
Champion du régiment, Le	9 weken	Frankrijk	1932	komedie		voor
Devil's Brother, The	9 weken	VSA	1933	klucht	R	voor
Fille et le garcon, La	9 weken	Duitsland	1931	operette		voor
Flying Down to Rio	9 weken	VSA	1933			te mi
Gay divorcee, The	9 weken	VSA	1934			af te







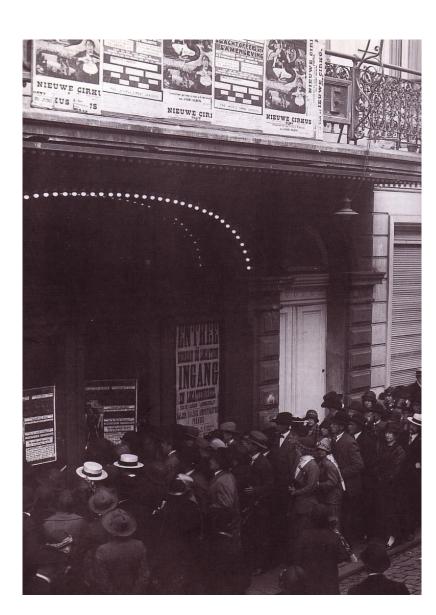


3. Audiences

Spectator – viewer – audience....

- Questions: who went how, why, where,... to the pictures?
- Methods / sorts of data...

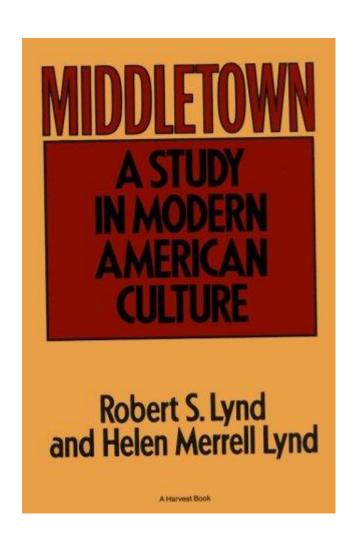




3. Audiences... new?

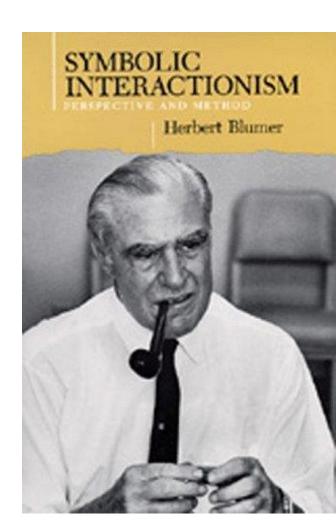
- Emilie Altenloh (1914) PhD on film audiences in Mannheim (Germany)
 - Robert and Helen M. Lynd,
 Middletown: A study in modern
 American culture (1929)





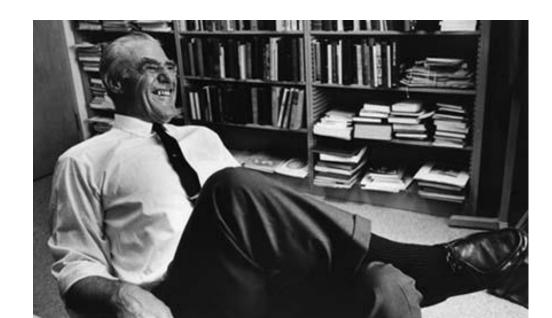
3. Audiences... new?

- Robert and Helen M. Lynd, *Middletown: A study in modern American culture* (1929)
- Herbert Blumer, Movies and Conduct (1933)



"It is important to consider that the movies do not come merely as a film that is thrown on a screen; their witnessing is an experience which is undergone in a very complex setting. There is the darkened theater...; there is the music which is capable not merely of being suggestive ...; there are the furnishings —sometimes gaudy and gorgeous, which help to tone the experience."

Herbert Blumer, *Movies and Conduct* (1933)



SOCIOLOGY OF

FILM

Studies and Documents

by J. P. MAYER

FABER AND FABER LIMITED

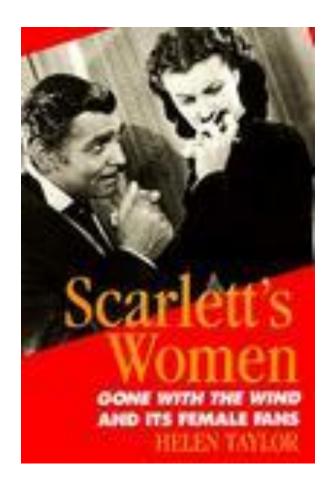
24 Russell Square

London

3. Audiences

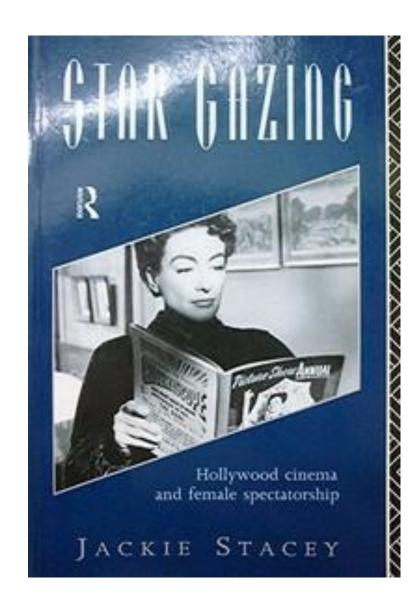
Qualitative approaches...

- e.g. Helen Taylor, *Scarlett's Women* (1989):
- questionnaires and letters female film fans (on Gone with the Wind)
- GwtW: a treasured place in personal history



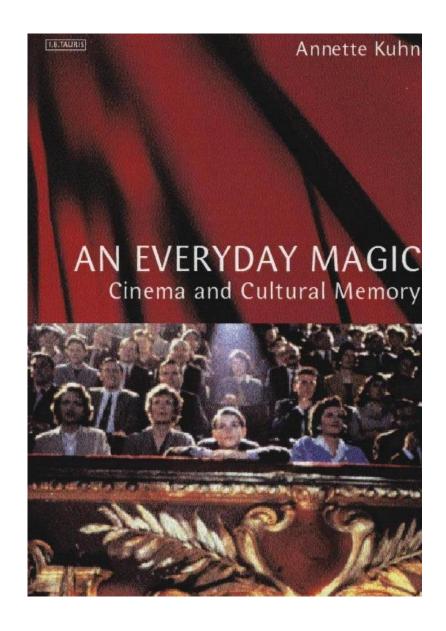
Jackey Stacey, Star Gazing: Hollywood Cinema and Female Spectatorship (1994) ... 1940s/50s

- questionnaires... open-ended and closed
- letters...
- Processes of memory formations...
- Role of place
- 'treasured memories'... "a place which can be regularly revisited"... "transformation of spectators' own identities"



Annette Kuhn: An Everyday Magic: Cinema and Cultural Memory (2002) ... 1930s cinemagoers.. 'movie-made audiences'...

- Postal questionnaire (1999)... cinemagoing in Britain in the 1930s (n= 186)
- Interviews
- "Ethnohistory"
- culturalism, ethnography, oral history...
- → Memory work…lived time…



Maria Antonia Paz (2003) ... Spanish film fans under Franco (1943-73)

- Oral accounts or interviews (n= 40)
- Importance of work, family, scarcity and the role of cinema as entertainment, role of stars...



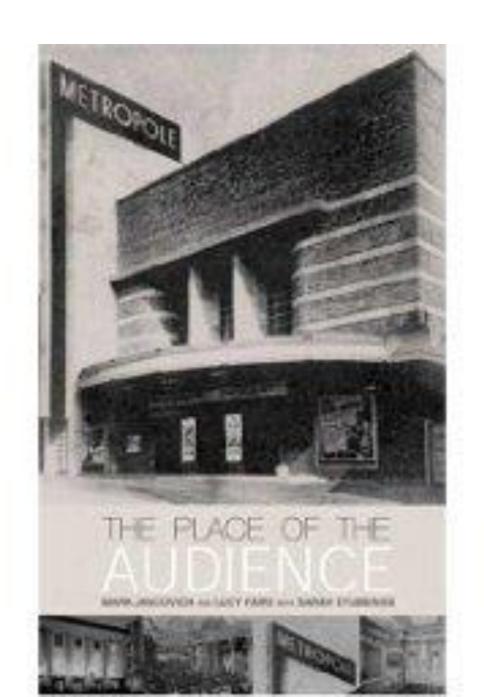
ABS STANWYCK is one cirema queen who's strictly on the up and up. She'd pairs berself off as a glemour girl bout as fact a she'd dashle for Donald Duck. And that goes for being the ortfoury type, too. Take the case of suchly Bob Taylor. Farmer Jor, she calls him, but kielding soids, there's e guy who likes to get out and do things: bunding, hersehook riding, or perhaps take a spin in his place. Usually be finds he's left to do a sole, . . . Bale admits she's purt a city gal who'll take her exercise on the hoof. Dance her shoes off, she could then cente home and hop into the latest best seller. . . . Con't cook worth a darn, but Bob claims she's a white at cleaning up. and adds that he'd pick up her option my old time. Course, maybe she carries this take-me-as-I-are stuff too for, masse she wowed she couldn't do cornedy roles, then let the bell's eye in

and bound to be the clincher. . . . As for Mr. and Mrs. P., you should see those two, appearse as night and day, they go together like bareharger a'onioen, the lady's devarite dish. Seconded such other out three years before taking the plumps, never go in for public demonstrations of love's young dream. traded Bub's ranch for a more accessible house in town, and with there are Rechara's one, Duon, and her uncle Buck Mark, you might used include the Jack Beauty and Zoppo Markes as part of the merage, especially Sondary for the ritted baked been dinner. . . . They dedge publicity like rooks, Bales outticularly, is inclined to thy away from people, though her offers to help newspersers are legion, . . . Would sooner to caught dead then sentimentalize, and because she's ne good at perionding, Lody Six, Soil of Fire, with The G.-String Mundom corning up there shouling, you can be sure it's right from the shoulder, swels trying attuition with a very humbs, but whenever she's in

3. Audiences: Questions:

Where which cinema? ...

social/economic/cultural
geography of cinema-going... (cf.
exhibition/social geography)



3. Audience: Questions

Who? Social composition of the audience

Sources?

- Historical reports
- Photos...





Audience behaviour Filmic experience Cinematic experience

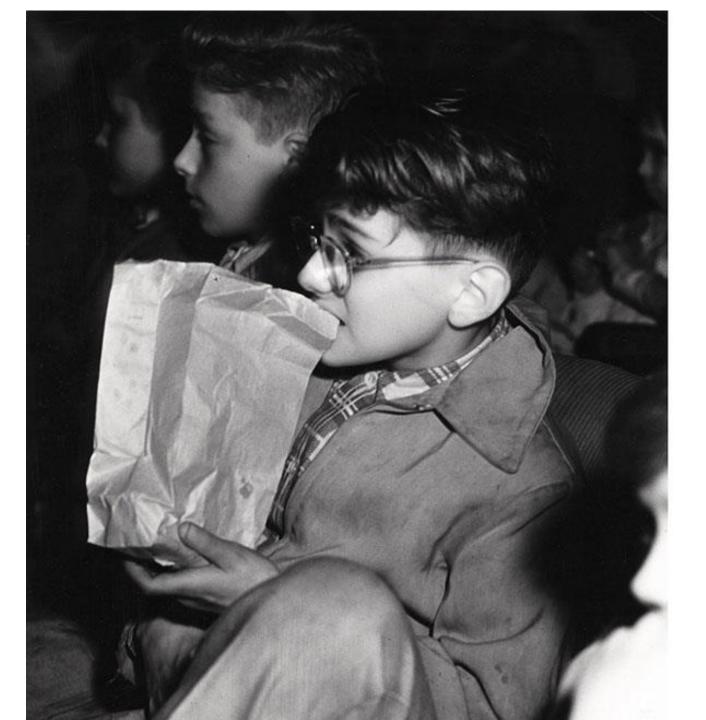
in the cinema













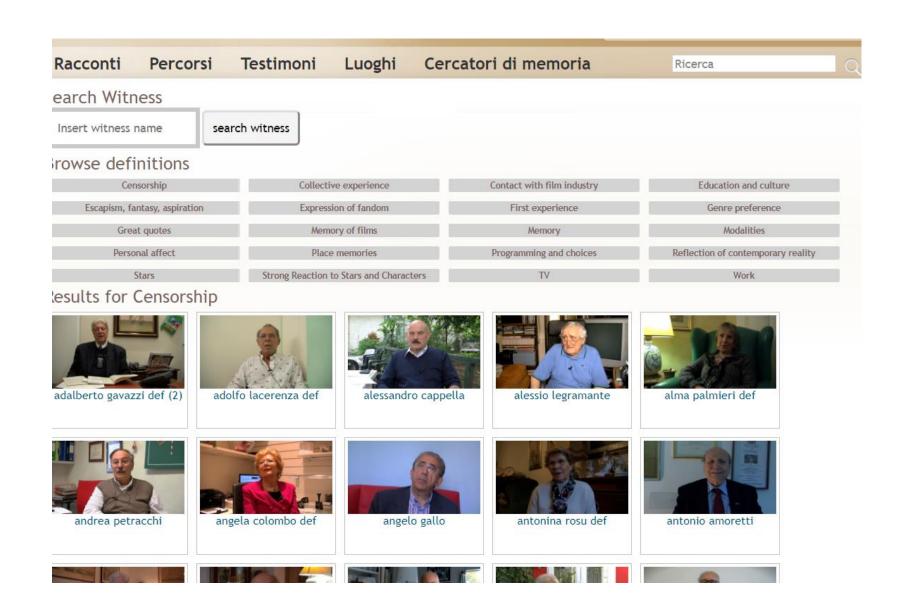
Audience behaviour Cinematic/cinemagoing experience

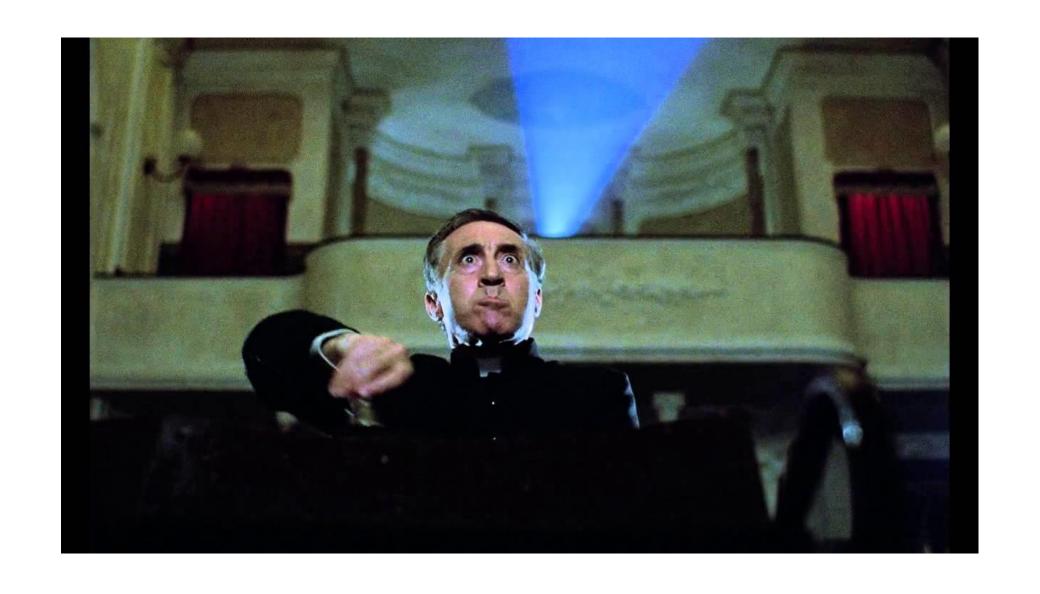
outside the cinema





3. Audiences and the experience of censorship

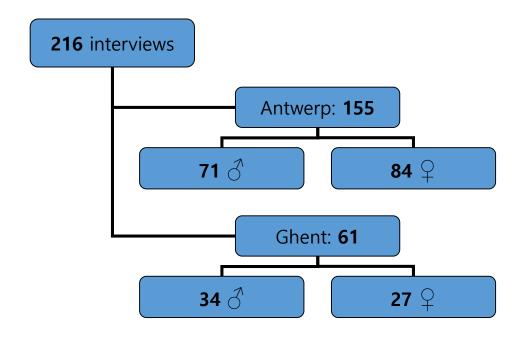


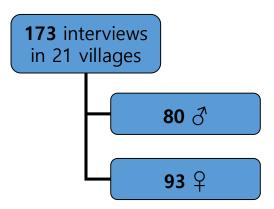


Cinema Paradiso, J. Tornatore, 1988
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMqE1Fayk28

Interview Belgium

CITIES VILLAGES

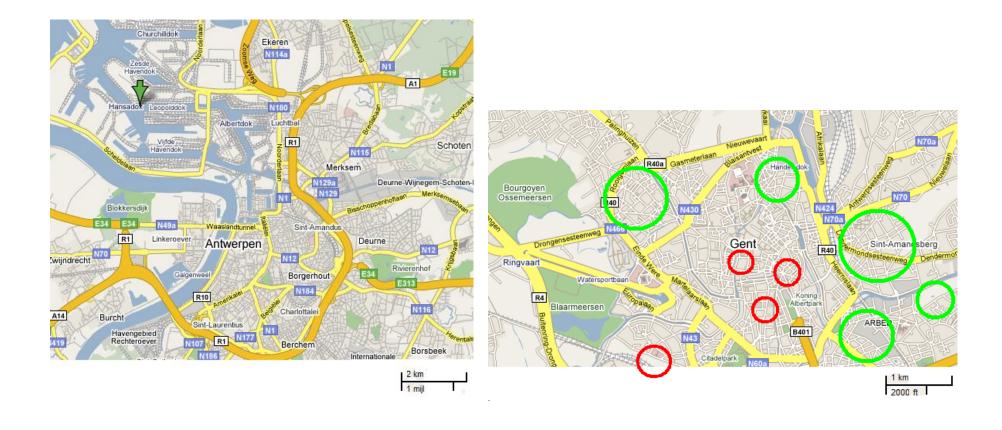




CHOOSING A THEATRE

Place-related memories

• centre cinemas, neighbourhood theatres and the hierarchy

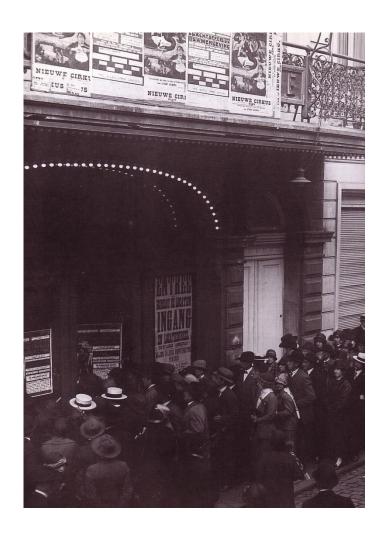


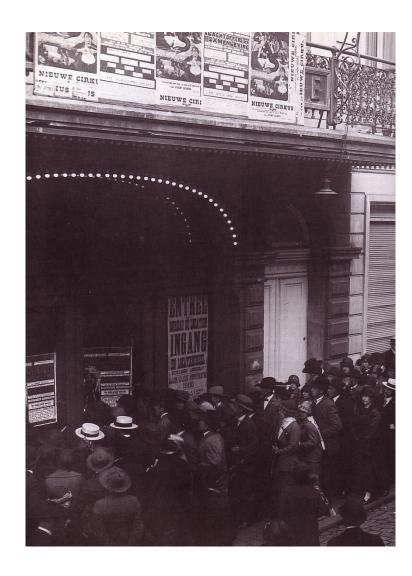
CHOOSING A THEATRE

Place-related memories

Reasons:

- proximity towards the home
- accessibility
- status, identity and audience
- profile of programming





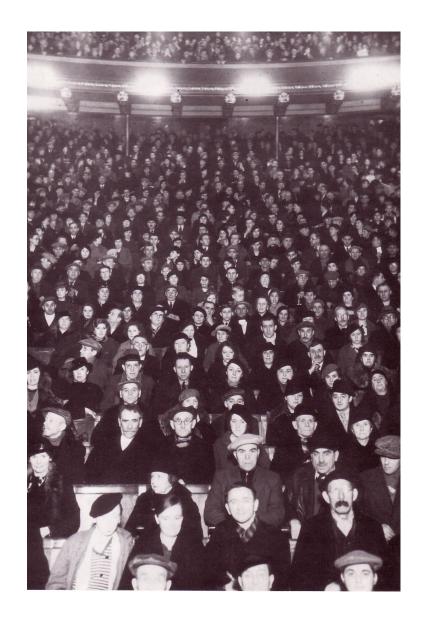
The waiting in line was also very pleasant. We laughed a lot. No matter who was standing there, we bonded and fraternized. Jokes went back and forth. That was a pleasant spirit. The mentality then was very different. Now people live like individuals, but back then, people loved each other more.

(Charles, 1921)

Catholics and cinema

"There were two cinemas which were a bit Catholic, I think. They showed movies where there was nothing to see at all. Certain people went to these venues, I know, also because the Church said they should avoid other cinemas which were associated with the devil. *Vooruit* was openly socialist and I think *Scaldis* also. People didn't know this, but there were many socialists in there..."

(G.M., male, Ghent, born 1921)

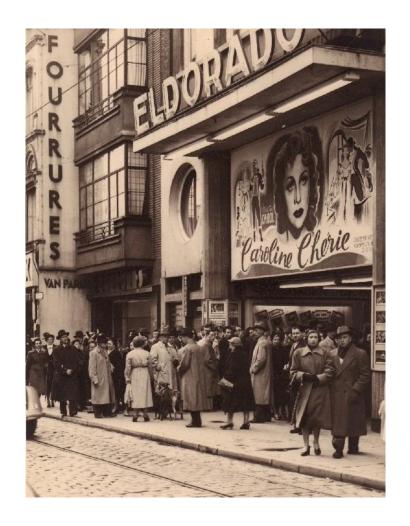


Class ...

"There was a difference according to the type of cinema... In the great cinemas in the centre... in the Majestic, Eldorado, Capitole, Select, there was a better audience, people from the city. In the neighborhood cinemas you saw a more popular audience. The Agora is an example. They played mostly second- or third-hand films, films that had been previously shown."



- Price
- Morality
- Luxury
- Different dress codes
- Differences of public decency, behavior, hygiene, physical cleanness



REMEMBERING A MOVIE

The Magic on Screen

Memories:

- first visits
- regularity of characters
- 'grandeur' of the 'once in a lifetime' event
- 'forbidden' movies
- stars
- language and country of origin



Circumventing the censorship:

"After the war I had to see 'Gone with the wind,' but I was only fifteen. So I put on my mothers shoes, her coat and her head. Luckily I was pretty tall, so they let me in!"

	MINISTÈ	RE DE LA	JUSTI	CE
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NUMÉRO	TITRES DES FILMS EXAMINÉS	DÉCISION	NOMBRE DE VOIX	OBSERVATIONS COUPURES DEMANDÉES ET MOTIFS DES REJETS
- Vc	" Guland en eneporte le vent. (Gone with the Wind) 24 p- 6000 m.	refuse	L'A	Abotifs du refus: ce film est base sur l'annour l'annour le marie qui emploie tous les moyen pour prendre le marie de son amie Il est de plu agrementé de scenes de menage, de violence et de l'expression de fair principes vraiment
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You know, I went to a catholic school, and we'd have these priests. And they'd tell you that movies were the 'source of all evil!' But others would claim that blouses without sleeves were the source of all evil. So we'd figure it was a bit variable.

(Sabine, 1946)



CHOOSING CINEMA

Cinema-going and the importance of the movie theatres in everyday life

Motives:

- habit
- escapism
- extension of home life
- social event
- the only available form of leisure





It was daily routine. You went to the movies? So you went to the movies. Whether it was a Sunday, during the week or on a holiday, it was all the same. (Roger, 1946)

Cinema and pillarization



 Armand: My first visits to the cinema were to a Catholic theatre. So my parents had nothing against that. But sometimes we went to another cinema, and whenever we came home from such a cinema, our parents would check with us what we saw, who we encountered there and stuff like that. Because of the strict, Catholic education back then.

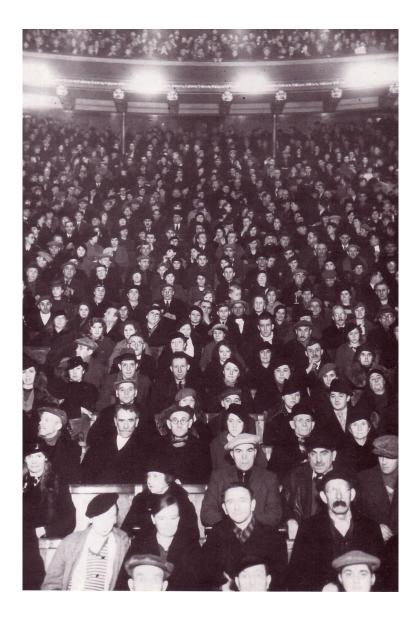
• ...

 Our (Catholic) school was really negative about movies. But they screened their own movies. They selected them and before they showed them to us the movies were heavily censored. I sometimes went to Catholic cinemas. But the seats there were really uncomfortable, that was not a real cinema. But Rex or Metro, that were cinemas. Really luxurious and with the best movies (Emma, 1923, Antwerpen)

The movies? That were films that were really old and totally worn-out. The remains, really. The ones they could get for a cheap price, because they couldn't afford expensive movies. They played one or two box office hits from a few years before, but all the rest ... well, that was only what they could get (Jan, 1941, Mechelen).



The Catholic cinema? Yes, we went there. But that was really a family cinema. We didn't go there everyday. If we went there, it was specifically chosen. But you can't say that it was a real cinema. A real cinema is a cinema where the exhibitor needs to make a living out of it, where he needs to make sure that there is a good movie that can attract the audience. But there (the catholic cinema) wasn't it like that at all (Maria, 1927, Mechelen)



Int: If a film was considered a forbidden movie, would go and see it? Roger (1930, Antwerp): No, never. That was against the spirit of the age. It was like the book *Boerenpsalm* from Felix Timmermans. We weren't allowed to read that either, because he stood on the forbidden index. If I had read that book then, I would have committed a sin.

Those were just the standards then. You didn't do such things. The mentality was different back then. Everything that didn't keep you on the rails was dangerous and could lead you astray. Everybody knew that beforehand (Olivia, 1928, Antwerp).

Off course we went to Church. We had to, they controlled that. And the Jesuits there told us what we would see and what not. And our parents would never let us see a movie if the priests had told us not to see it. And when we pressed real hard, they said: 'We'll see what the *Catholic Film League* thinks of this movie.' (André, 1924, Berchem)



I remember going to see a forbidden movie. They said it was daring, so I wanted to check it out for myself. So I went. I'll never forget. The entire movie I was thinking: when is something going to happen? But nothing happened (Liliane, 1930, Antwerp).



You know, I went to a catholic school, and we'd have these priests. And they'd tell you that movies were the 'source of all evil!' But others would claim that blouses without sleeves were the source of all evil. So we'd figure it was a bit variable (Sabine, 1946, Ghent).



Our local priest was absolutely against our cinema. But he regularly visited my aunt (who owned the local movie theatre) to drink coffee. But whenever he was on the pulpit during mass, he was always preaching against the cinema (Mark, 1934, Liedekerke).



If our local priest heard that children had gone to the movie theatre in Merelbeke, he immediately told the parents. He had a lot of contempt for people who went to the cinema. Those people were beneath him. He talked about that in schools. Many people, like the priest, thought that people who went to the cinema weren't good Catholics. He was really opposed to the cinema (Jean, 1932, Ghent).



4. Discussion

