



THE BALTIC NEUROCINE Seminar @BFM May 5-7, 2023

Tallinn invites PhD students, researchers and film professionals to join interdisciplinary research endeavours at European film schools on cinematic storytelling.

The event is part of FilmEU_RIT Pilot ARCF and FilmEU Doctus seminar activities.

Neurocinematics has provided an exciting window to the film viewers' minds. The study field of neurocinematics (Hasson et al. 2008) has shown how films make different viewers' brains "tick" together. Using films as stimuli in neuroscience labs has allowed researchers to accumulate new insights to the human behaviour, emotions, and memory. For example, could it be possible to test whether the minds of the viewership synchronize with the mind of the director, asks neuroscientist Iiro Jääskeläinen in his talk May 7.

It is time to extend the scope to the filmmakers' minds. Do the filmmakers and viewers alike build their experience and sense-making on the same embodied foundation? What are the embodied dynamics of the filmmaker in the process of simulating the experiences of the fictional protagonists and/or that of imagined viewers described as "enactive authorship" by Pia Tikka? In his talk professor Maarten Coëgnarts, from University of Antwerp, will open up embodied mental schemas in filmmaking and viewing. A script writing workshop by Maude Sills-Néron, University of Montréal, will invite participants to examine creative cognitive overload and the image density in the script, on May 5.

And generate truly Interdisciplinary insights to the filmmakers' practices. In her talk, cinematographer Elen Lotman addresses eye-tracking as one of many means to study the experiential heuristics and the practice-based knowledge accumulated by cinematographers. What ways could neuroimaging observations of viewer experience be extended to accumulating novel insights on the professional practices? How could insights from filmmaking practitioners be brought more effectively into studies of individual first-person experiences, a question addressed from neurophenomenological point of view by professor Katrin Heimann, Aarhus University. This discussion is extended to the virtual reality and atypical brains in the talk by neuropsychologist Juha Salmitaival, from Aalto University, on May 6.

Three neurocinematic days packed with knowledge exchange, live discussions and social mingling between participants and speakers from film and cognitive studies, will provide different theoretical and practical perspectives to the interdisciplinary challenges of studying creative processes of professional cinematographers, screenwriters, and other experts of filmmaking.

Registration is open until April 20th so act fast!

PhD students from FilmEU consortium universities can apply for travel scholarships; two mobility scholarships per Institution will be awarded. The application for the inter-FilmEU mobility funding can be submitted within the registration form. Please also use the same registration form if you are a non-FilmEU University participant or TLU participant not applying for mobility but registering as a participant: <https://forms.gle/nk5SBSAWZDYC5vSC8>

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Follow our updates for the detailed seminar program in the next few days.

<http://enactivevirtuality.tlu.ee/neurocine-seminar-workshop-days-2023/>

References:

- Hasson, U., Landesman, O., Knappmeyer, B. Vallines, I., Rubin, N., & Heeger, D. (2008). Neurocinematics: The Neuroscience of Film. *Projections*, 2, 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.3167/proj.2008.020102>.
- Jääskeläinen, I. P., Sams, M., Glerean, E., & Ahveninen, J. (2021). Movies and narratives as naturalistic stimuli in neuroimaging. *NeuroImage*, 224, 117445. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.117445>
- Lotman, E. (2021) *Experiential heuristics of fiction film cinematography*. PhD Diss. Tallinn University.
- Tikka, Pia (2022). *Enactive Authorship Second-Order Simulation of the Viewer Experience— A Neurocinematic Approach*. *Projections: the Journal for Movies & Mind*, 16 (1), 47–66. DOI: 10.3167/proj.2022.160104.