SITES OF CINEMA (735) • Founded: 2010

This seminar takes a new approach to the question of cinema at a moment when cinema is said to be in decline, even facing its "death." Rather than focusing on the convergence of moving image forms into a single delivery system, the seminar takes up divergence over convergence—asking not André Bazin's question "What Is Cinema?" but rather "Where Is Cinema?" Where has it been seen to be, and where will it be sited in the future, as theoretical construct, national culture, material object, artistic work, social practice, and space of exhibition? Cinema has moved and is still moving—from theatrical stages to museum walls, in and on buildings, as well as within historical nations and regions of the world—and the seminar signals interest in site-specific cinemas in the plural, as well as cinema as a total apparatus.

CHAIR/S: **Racquel Gates**; **Jane Gaines** • RAPPORTEUR/S: **Haoze Guan**; **Leon Li**

2025–2026 MEETINGS

September 18 — *The Mother of Soviet Documentary: Esfir Shub Between Theory and Practice*
Anastasia Kostina, Columbia University
Respondent: **Alexandra Juhasz**, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

October 16 — *Finding God in All the Black Places*
Beretta Smith-Shomade, Emory University
Respondent: **Brandy Monk-Payton**, Fordham University

November 20 — *Cinema and Solidarity*
Masha Salazkina, Concordia University
Respondents: **Anna McCarthy**, New York University
Naeem Mohaiemen, Columbia University

December 4 — *Contested Realities: Documentary Across Left and Right*
Joshua Glick, Bard College
Respondent: **David Fresko**, Rutgers University

January 29 — *Reading Jameson: Cinema and Jameson's World*
Gayatri C. Spivak, Columbia University
Philip Rosen, Brown University, Emeritus

February 12 — *Distributing Blackness: America's 'Heartland,' Film Distribution, and The Wiz*
Alfred Martin, University of Miami
Respondent: **Paula Massood**, Brooklyn College

March 5 — *The Discontinuous Long Take in Contemporary World Cinema*
Jason McGrath, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Respondent: **Jiwei Xiao**, Fairfield University

April 2 — *Esther Eng and Film Distribution in the Chinatown Network*
S. Louisa Wei, City University of Hong Kong (China)
Respondent: **Vito Adriaensens**, New York University

May 7, 2026 — *The Future of Film & Media Studies*
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2026-2027 CHAIR/S: **Racquel Gates**, rjg2184@columbia.edu; **Ron Gregg**, rg3121@columbia.edu