29.11

IMAGES OF COMMUNISM IN THE EARLY SOVIET FILM

Organized by Gal Kirn in cooperation with Elena Vogman

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Like specters, the films of Medvedkin, Eisenstein and Vertov seem to haunt discussions of theory and practice, history and visual memory into the present. They have created a visual grammar through images of the past which equally project a potential future. These films shaped an image of communism—a visual surplus, a hyper-utopia. The workshop inquires into the aesthetic, political and epistemic value of these spectral images as “living archives” for our time.

PROGRAM (FRIDAY, 29.11.)
12–12.15: Introductory remarks, Gal Kirn and Elena Vogman

SESSION I: RUPTURE OF / WITH VERTOV
12.15–13: John MacKay (Yale University, and fellow at IFK/Vienna): “Shown through fragments: Vertov and the de-privatizing of perception”
14–15: Lunch break (buffet)

SESSION II: REPRESENTATION OF CAPITAL & EISENSTEIN
15–15.45: Thomas Tode (film-maker, independent researcher, Hamburg): “Follow the money! Eisenstein Filming ‘Capital’ of Karl Marx and the Beginnings of Essay Film”
16.45–17: Coffee break