

Beyond impasses of rural time (convenor: Hanneke Stuit)

This panel investigates cultural imaginaries of time pertaining to the rural across various regions. In many cultures and contexts, the rural is, for better or worse, perceived as lagging behind the metropolis, globalisation processes or even modernity itself. Life in the rural, however, is not only coeval with modernity even if the epistemologies associated with rural regions tend to be categorized under the rubric of “traditionalism,” but more importantly, many logistical processes crucial to contemporary society take place in the rural, like food production, data farming, distribution centres, garbage disposal and energy generation (Neel 2018, Peeren 2018). At the same time, however, for both rural and urban residents alike, the rural tends to maintain its pastoral and idyllic role as a site of retreat and regeneration, and plays an important role in transregional emotional and economic support networks (Vibert 2020). This panel seeks to get at renditions, experiences and imaginations of rural temporality in various contexts, asking how social and cultural imaginaries can be seen to mobilize alternative rural (temporal) trajectories that clash with its depiction as a backward place.

Panelists

Modernity and the Village in West African Literature and Cinema
Shola Adenekan, University of Amsterdam

The Logistical Rural of Amazon in Heike Geissler's Seasonal Associate
Marija Cetinic, University of Amsterdam

Post/socialist Waste-Times: Eternity, Regeneration, and Undigestibility in Plastic China
Emily Ng, University of Amsterdam

Thinking the Rural in Troubled Times: Scales of Time in Ingrid Winterbach's Die Troebel Tyd (The Troubled Times of Margrieta Prinsloo, 2018)
Hanneke Stuit, University of Amsterdam

Troubling Transitions: Postcolonial/Postsocialist Interventions (convenor: Ksenia Robbe)

The panel inquires into the modes of questioning the imaginaries of the 1980-90s political transitions in the Global South and East, and the dynamics of these interrogations within contemporary crises and mobilizations. The events of three decades ago initiated a variety of 'post-' temporalities - post-Soviet, post-Oslo, post-apartheid and post-dictatorship - which together may be seen as constituting the entangled postsocialist / postcolonial presents embedded in neoliberal capitalist time. Today, the past of these transitions keeps hold of social imaginations in ambiguous ways, their events being recalled as moments of resistance and breakthrough as well as times of capitulation and foreclosed futurity.

This panel brings together readings of post-transitional time and practices of recalling transitions in film and photography to address the possibility of alternative vocabularies of thinking about transformation beyond teleology, mythical return, or 'stuckness'. How are the traumas of conflict and transition being re-approached, traces of utopia appropriated, and what forms of subjectivity do these acts produce? The discussions will also consider possibilities of dialogue between postcolonial and postsocialist temporalities.

Panelists

Chair: Dr Boris Noordenbos, University of Amsterdam

Intimate Endings: Remembering Communist Belonging in the Works of Lebanese Artists Maher Abi Samra and Rabih Mroué

Judith Naeff, Leiden University

Cinematic Representations of the End-Times: Ethics of Memory and World-Making after Communism

Saygun Gokariksel, Boğaziçi University

Photography's Aftertime: Apartheid and the Abyss of History

Kylie Thomas, Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam

Time of Revolt and Repair: Recalling Post-Soviet and Post-Apartheid Transitions in Coming-of-Age Films

Ksenia Robbe, University of Groningen

Memory and Displacement (convenor: Sanjukta Sunderason)

This panel focuses on how art and other forms of cultural production deal with time and displacement through several points of entry and intersection across temporal manipulation, ruinous temporalities, absence as presence and the metaphor of the wound. We will explore instances when memory disappears and reappears through artistic practices, the different forms and shapes these take, and their material, social, ideological and affective contexts. We are likewise interested in how spatio-temporal disjuncture is mediated, and questions on temporal manipulation, the limits of representation and the transnational space that memory occupies.

Our starting questions include: How do artistic and cultural practices negotiate experience and embodiment in relation to remembering, absence, (mis)representation, social critique, violence and oblivion? What is the importance of imagination and community in this process? How is memory dislocated or relocated through processes of production, transmission and reception?

With this panel, we aim at generating a comparative analysis of different case studies and their respective social-political contexts from a global perspective.

Panelists

Chair: Elize Mazadiego, University of Amsterdam

'Still Here': Place, Memory, And Ruinous Temporalities in the Work of Beverly Buchanan

Amelia Groom, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

The Siluetazo, or Absence as Presence

Eve Kalyva, University of Kent

Joyce and the Politics of Temporal Manipulation, as Received by Beuys and in Cold War Dissident Art

Christa-Maria Lerm-Hayes, University of Amsterdam

"A wound that would not heal": Wound as Haunting and Historical Consciousness in the Aesthetics of 20th-century Decolonization

Sanjukta Sunderason, University of Amsterdam