

107.1 International Academic Seminar

Seminar Title:

The Hidden History of Modernity: From Chaplin to Facebook

Abstract:

This talk tries to understand our lives today from a particular media history. It will look at the role of cinema and the computer as both symptoms and shapers of our contemporary digital infrastructure. The histories of these two, at times, competing media go back to the emerging scientific materialism of the mid-19th Century and culminates in the current methods of Facebook and Cambridge Analytica. We will explore this history from Marey's early motion studies and Chaplin's *Modern Times*, and into contemporary sci-fi narratives such as *Minority Report*. The analytical framework used will be taken from the field of critical infrastructure studies (Geoffrey Bowker) and ways of understanding the origins of modernity and postmodernity such as Anson Rabinbach's *The Human Motor: Energy, Fatigue, and the Origins of Modernity*. Eivind Røssaak is currently working on a book about infrastructure.

Speaker: Dr. Eivind Røssaak (Associate Professor, Film and Media Studies, Department of Research, National Library of Norway, Oslo)

Venue: Graduate Institute of Art History, National Taiwan Normal University

Chair: Dr. Louis Lo (Associate Professor, Department of English, National Taipei University of Technology)

Date: 4 December 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 18:30-20:30

Bio:

Eivind Røssaak (羅愛文), PhD, Associate Professor, Film and Media Studies, Department of Research, National Library of Norway, Oslo. He has written ten books and several articles on the transitions from old to new media within visual and archival cultures, media archaeology, critical theory, cinema, literature and digital infrastructure studies. Visiting Associate Professor at University of Chicago, Taipei Tech and Nordland College of Art and Film, and Visiting Fellow at NYU and USC. Founding member of the cross-disciplinary Scandinavian research-projects "Digitization and Diversity" and "The Archive in Motion". Recent publications: «Couplage/Pairing» in *Living Together: Roland Barthes, the Individual and the Community* (2018), "The Emergence of the Curator in Norway: Discourse, Techniques, and the Contemporary" in *Contested Qualities*, and "File/Life: Constant, Kurenniemi and the Question of Living Archives" in *Memory in Motion: Archives, Technology and the Social* (2016).

Website with publications: <https://nb.academia.edu/EivindR%C3%B8ssaak>

Co-organizers:

Graduate Institute of Art History, National Taiwan Normal University
Department of English, National Taipei University of Technology