

Urbs et Orbis: Ancient Rome on the Global Screen

(RS = Reception Studies)

Ancient Rome has inspired numerous onscreen receptions over the past century and has been projected onto a variety of different screen texts in both epic cinema and serial television, while the figure of the powerful and beautiful yet dangerous and decadent empire has often served as an analogue for evocations of statehood and nationality in modern political movements and popular ideologies. Now the screening of ancient Rome, in all its permutations, can also be said to have taken on a global significance. The four papers on this panel explore the ways in which the image of ancient Rome on the worldwide screen nods to earlier receptions, while at the same time showing how the international reach of ancient Rome onscreen suggests new techniques of interrogation to current issues such as power and politics, race and class, family and sexuality, and violence and spectacle. The panel considers the global image of ancient Rome as a provocative contribution to our understanding of how specific threads of onscreen reception are constantly being reinvented to suit contemporary tastes, aspirations, and anxieties.

Time Requested: 2 hours

AV Requirements: LCD digital projection & sound cables for PPT with embedded video clips.