

Liverpool Film Seminar

2018 – 2019 series

Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites experts to deliver a series of talks. Topics vary greatly and the series does not focus on a specific aspect of film. Instead, a range of genres and approaches are celebrated, from historical reach to the internet's impact on cinematic material.

Professor Simeon Yates (University of Liverpool)

Modelling socio-cultural factors in film genre preferences: Empirically comparing Bourdieu, Bauman and Goldthorpe

This paper focuses on social, economic and cultural patterns of film consumption. Film is a useful medium to consider cultural consumption more widely as it has many genres that vary in terms of perceived artistic and entertainment value. Our analysis follows Bourdieu in the main but explores positions that view cultural consumption as eclectic or personalised. Our analysis is based on both DCMS and BFI data sets and looks at consumption in general as well as focusing in on film deemed to have artistic value such as arthouse and foreign language features. Though we found that social and economic factors remain predictors of cultural consumption the overall picture is more complex than a simple direct correspondence, importantly perceptions of other cultural forms also play a role. Those likely to 'consume' arthouse and foreign language film will consume other film genres and have a wider interaction with other cultural forms; whereas those who 'prefer' arthouse and foreign language film have slightly more constrained socio-economic and cultural characteristics. In general, we find that economic and cultural factors such as income, education, and wider consumption of culture are significant in patterns of film consumption.

Biography:

Simeon Yates is Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research Environment and Postgraduate Research. His research on the social, political and cultural impacts of digital media includes a long-standing focus on digital media and interpersonal interaction. More recently, he has worked on projects that address issues of digital inclusion and exclusion. He was recently seconded to the UK Government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to act as research lead for the Digital Culture team. He remains the joint-chair of the DCMS Research Working Group on



Digital Inclusion and Skills. His prior work covered topics such as digital cultural consumption, the use of digital technologies in the workplace, digital media use during crises and ICT use by the security services. The majority of his research has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), EU and industry. Simeon's work has often been interdisciplinary and has predominantly involved creative and digital industry partners.