

SURDITÉ Cinéma

Social Understandings and Representations of Deafness in Theory and Education through Cinema

Marie Curie Fellow

Ruth Kitchen, ruth.kitchen@ehess.fr

Programme Handicaps et Sociétés (PHS),

École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), 190 av. de France, 75013

- The project is financed by a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship from the European Research Commission. It is supported and managed by the Programme Handicaps et Sociétés, Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS).

Project summary

- The project aims to analyse how social understandings, in particular theoretical and educational perspectives, and representations of deaf people, being deaf and deafness have changed since 2000 in and through cinema.

Key background reference texts for the project are the works of Stan Schuchman, *Hollywood Speaks: Deaf and the Film Entertainment Industry* (1988) and that of Guy Jouannaet, *L'Écran sourd – les représentations du sourd dans la création audiovisuelle* (1999).

Discussion groups (Focus Groups)

- The Fellow will lead discussion groups (Focus Groups) in France, the UK and the USA about the use of this cinema as an educational resource for young people (deaf and hearing) and for the general public.
 - o *National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, USA, Wednesday 14th October, 2015.*
- Please contact the Fellow at ruth.kitchen@ehess.fr to participate in a discussion group in France or the UK

Interviews with filmmakers and film crew members

- The Fellow will conduct interviews with directors and film crew members on the topic of the representation of deaf people, being deaf or deafness in cinema since 2000
 - o The Fellow will take the opportunity to interview the directors who will present their films and take part in the monthly seminar-film series *SURDITÉ Cinema : Expériences et compréhensions sociales de la surdité à travers le cinéma contemporain*, which will take place at the EHESS between January and May 2016.
- If you are a director / film crew member and interested in being interviewed, please contact the Fellow on ruth.kitchen@ehess.fr

Call for testimonies about the experiences of deaf people in France during the Second World War

- The Fellow is writing an article on the question of the experiences of deaf people in France during the Second World War.

- 'Deaf in wartime France – conflict in the community', to be published in the review *Essays in French Literature and Culture* 54, in November 2017.
- Please contact the Fellow at ruth.kitchen@ehess.fr to give testimony to this experience and / or with information relating to this topic.

Teaching

The Fellow is co-organiser of the following seminars at the EHESS

2014-2015

- *Sciences sociales et surdit  : travaux en cours de jeunes chercheurs*, EHESS, f v – juin 2015

2015-2016

- *Langue des signes et pratiques artistiques*, EHESS, Paris – Toulouse, oct 2015 – juin 2016
- *SURDIT  Cinema : Exp riences et comp hensions sociales de la surdit    travers le cin ma contemporain*, EHESS, jan – mai 2016
- *Sciences sociales et surdit  : travaux en cours de jeunes chercheurs*, EHESS, f v - juin 2016

Collaborations

- The Project has established an on-going collaboration with Retour d'image, a Paris-based charity organisation that has a strong profile in France and on a European level for its work concerning Cinema and Disabilities. (www.retourdimage.eu).

Presentations

Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 'Le Projet SURDIT  Cin ma,' *S minaire pour le Programme Handicaps et Soci t s*, EHESS, 17th November 2014.
- 'Le Projet SURDIT  Cin ma,' *S minaire Sciences Sociales et Surdit *, EHESS, 2nd February 2015.
- 'Le Projet SURDIT  Cin ma,' CETIM, Universit  de Toulouse 2 Le Mirail, 9th April 2014.
- 'Le cin ma muet du XXIe si cle : l'exp rience de la surdit ,' * tudes sourdes dans la francophonie* au *Colloque ACFAS*, Rimouski, Canada 26th-27th May 2015.
- 'Mise en question de la compr hension sociale de la surdit    travers le cin ma,' *S minaire Sciences Sociales et Surdit *, EHESS, 9th June 2015.

- 'Deaf Education: the rhetoric and realities of the language of inclusion,' *Max Weber Conference*, European University Institute, Florence 10th-12th June 2015.

International Presentations

- 'Deafness, Cinema and the Franco-American Relationship Past and Present,' Public Lecture, National Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, 13th October, 2015
- 'Deafness, Cinema and the Franco-American Relationship Past and Present,' Public Lecture, Gallaudet University, Washington D.C., 21st October 2015.
- 'Deaf Cinema: a 21st century genre?,' Deaf Art and Cinema Seminar, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, RIT, 13th October 2015.
- 'Filmmaking and Deaf Cinema: examining animation,' Deaf Art and Cinema Seminar, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, RIT, 14th October 2015.

Public presentations

- With Retour d'image, a Paris-based charity that works on the representation of disability in the cinema and the question of accessibility of the cinema to people with disabilities, the SURDITE Cinéma Project organized a public film screening and round table discussion at the EHESS on 9th June 2015. The screening was of the recently released French film, *Marie Heurtin* (2014) and the round table discussants were Jean-Pierre Améris, the film's director, and Noémie Hurlot, a deaf actress in the film. This event was part of *Le Mois Extra-Ordinaire 2015*, a month-long series of events for raising awareness about disabilities and universal accessibility organized by the Mayor of Paris. The event was filmed by Swiss Television as part of a programme they are creating about Noémie Hurlot, the deaf actress, who participated in the round table discussion.
(<http://charlesetcompagnie.fr/meoparis2015/table-ronde-autour-du-film-marie>)
The fellow hopes to run another event with Retour d'image in the Mois Extra-Ordinaire in May 2016.

Forthcoming Articles 2016 – 2017

- 'The Disabled Body in the Cinema of Jacques Audiard,' 'Special Issue on Jacques Audiard,' *Studies in French Cinema*, no. 16 iii, October 2016.
- "Deaf in wartime France – conflict in the community," 'Hidden words, hidden worlds: everyday life & narrative sources (France 1939-45) Ordinary lives in wartime France,' *Essays in French Literature and Culture* 54, Nov 2017.