

Conference Event Proposal:**Migrations and Mediations: The Politics of Movement****Proposing Member(s):**

Nilo Couret, Laura Isabel Serna, Rielle Navitski, Julian Etienne, EJ Basa, Javier Rodriguez

Names of Caucus(es)/SIG(s):

Latinx Caucus, Middle East Caucus, French and Francophone SIG, Urbanism, Geography, and Architecture SIG, Experimental Film and Media SIG, Transnational Cinemas SIG

Email Address

[email]

Title of Conference Event Proposal

Migrations and Mediations: The Politics of Movement

Proposed Location

Off-Site Location

Where (if off-site location)?

DePaul University, CDM Auditorium 14 E Jackson Blvd. Basement LL 105

Event Coordinator(s) (please provide names along with email addresses)

Nilo Couret, [email]

EJ Basa, [email]

Julian Etienne Gomez, [email]

Javier Ramirez, [email]

Event Participant(s)

Members of organizing caucuses, SCMS membership at large, the public. Filmmakers: Javier Ortiz and Alireza Khatami Scholar(s): Pooja Rangan

Brief Summary (300 words or less)

For many, Chicago was not always “home.” In the early twentieth century African Americans seeking to leave the racial climate of the American South behind and Mexican migrants seeking work far north of the border joined European migrants new to the city. Today, one out of seven residents of the state of Illinois is an immigrant; almost 34% of those migrants, who come from all over the world, live in Chicago. Inspired by Chicago as a hub for migration, this event explores mediatized representations of the movement and dispersal—voluntary or forced—of populations across the world. The event will bring together experimental media and screen practices that articulate the post-cinematic—how film appears ubiquitous in the museum and on the street, on planes and in cars, and across new digital communication platforms—with inquiries into the movement of people, commodities, ideas, and cultures.

The program of shorts begins with three experimental documentaries that explore migration: Robert Fenz’s structural documentary on the US-Mexico border, Tuan Nguyen and the Superflex Collective’s rhythmic documentary short about the construction of a migrant boat in Comoros, and Fabio Palmieri’s hypnotic exploration of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. These will be followed by three films on the historical legacy of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Carlos Javier Ortiz’s experimental short on the legacy of the Great Migration in Chicago; Ephraim Asili’s essay film comparing the rhythms of everyday life in Harlem and Salvador, Brazil; and Mónica Savirón’s collage film that pays homage to the freedom of movement. The program concludes with an experimental fiction film on displacement by Alireza Khatami. The program includes a post-screening conversation between scholars—so far Pooja Rangan (Amherst College) has confirmed—and the U.S.-based filmmakers (Ortiz, who is currently based in Chicago, and Khatami) whose work appears in the program.

Appeal/Benefits to Caucus/SIG and SCMS Members (300 words or less)

The Latinx Caucus conceptualized this event as an opportunity to explore common interests across Caucuses and Scholarly Interest Groups. The theme of migration and displacement is one that many of our members explore in their work but also one that is taken up across cinematic traditions. Rather than examining feature film treatments of this theme we were anxious to explore the ways that documentary and experimental filmmakers, whose work itself traverses boundaries explored a theme of critical importance both historically and in our contemporary moment.

The program itself is the result of a collaborative curatorial process. In a series of meetings the event committee met with representatives of co-sponsoring Caucuses and SIGS to flesh out a programmatic vision for the event and select titles that would create a provocative yet cohesive set of screenings. Because so many groups have contributed to the event in both its conception and in the form of funds to realize it, we anticipate having robust attendance. What is more, this event as conceptualized provides an important opportunity for cross-interest group and Caucus dialogue around a set of texts that speak to overlapping scholarly interests. Hosting the event at a venue off-site but within walking distance will allow us to include the vibrant Chicago film and media community as well as students and faculty from area institutions.

Proposed Budget Amount:

\$2,545.00

Itemized Expenses & Amounts:

Please see attached spreadsheet, which itemizes expenses as well as in-kind contributions and financial commitments from participating Caucuses and SIGs.

For Screening Events --> Title of Film

Please see attached list of film titles.

Will Filmmaker Attend Screening?

Yes

If so, Filmmaker's Name?

Javier Ortiz and Alireza Khatami

For Screening Events --> Synopsis

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For Screening Events --> Maker

See attached

For Screening Events --> Country

See attached

For Screening Events --> Year

See attached

For Screening Events --> Run-time (in minutes)

See attached

For Screening Events --> Distributor Information (Include Name, Email, Mailing Address, and Phone)

See attached

List AV Requirements (If Needed)

See attached

I will have the final description of the conference event to the home office NLT Jan 17, 2017

Yes