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Chair: Dr Tatsuma Padoan



“A Semiotic Perspective on Cinema and Food”



Tuesday 9 April 2024, 14.00-16.00, WGB 4.02

Western Gate Building, UCC – ALL WELCOME

In this talk I will try to outline the epistemological contributions provided by a semio-anthropological perspective on social discourse, through an analysis of contemporary cinematic representations of food. I will highlight the “mythical” function—in the anthropological sense of the term—that cinematic representations exert in daily life, in the way they offer “their” own solution to some collective dilemmas discussed in public debates. From this perspective, we will notice how films dedicated to food take side by favouring a reappropriation of the corporeal existence, standing against those ideologies that deny “citizenship” to food in the name of abstract values. Voicing the possibility of emancipation from these ideological regimes, these films describe how outsiders who arrive from far away, with their unexpected ways of cooking and eating, generate a crisis in the community and demand a social change.

Dr Francesco Mangiapane is lecturer in Semiotics at the University of Palermo, where he teaches Semiotics of Cultural Heritage and Semiotics of Gastronomy.

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