

department of
ENGLISH
SPEAKER
SERIES

Mediating Cultures

DIFFERENCE
DISPLAY
DISRUPTION

HAIDEE WASSON

FILM STUDIES, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PRO-SEMINAR: FUTURES OF VISUAL STUDIES

OCTOBER 24
5:00 PM
C607 WELLS Wasson will lead a discussion about methodology and future directions in visual studies, based on her recent edited issue of *Cinema Journal*. The seminar will provide an opportunity to link Huhtamo's talk and Wasson's presentation on Friday, as well as to talk about current methods of cultural and material history. The issue of *Cinema Journal* can be found at english.msu.edu.

“PROTOCOL AND PORTABILITY: ARCHEOLOGIES OF THE SMALL SCREEN AT MID-CENTURY”

OCTOBER 25
4:00 PM
B342 WELLS The history of portable film projectors offers us a very different view of what cinema has been -- not big but small, not only moving but also still, permanent but just as often provisional. Through the lens of the portable projector and its small screen, cinema's apparatus has long been less a singular ideal and more an iterative process, serving a range of aesthetic experiments, epistemological projects, corporate and governmental mandates. This presentation will provide a framework for thinking about what it means to integrate portability into our assumptions about cinema's past, using a cluster of case studies beginning in 1939 and ending in 1959. Particular attention will be paid to the role of the American military in developing film projectors during the war and well beyond. Wasson's recently published work concentrates on cinema, but explores the broader relations among media forms and practices (cinema and newspapers, books, radio, film, television, internet). Her award-winning book *Museum Movies* (UC Press, 2005) examines the importance of the modern art museum for ideas and practices of cinema. She also co-edited (with Lee Grieveson) a collection of essays on the history of the field of moving image studies, *Inventing Film Studies* (Duke UP, 2008); and (with Charles Acland) *Useful Cinema* (Duke UP, 2011), a book about cinema beyond the movie theater. Dr. Wasson also co-edits a book series (with Lee Grieveson) for the BFI devoted to exploring cultural histories of cinema.