Film & Philosophy
Instituto de Filosofia da Linguagem
Mapping an Encounter

CONFERÊNCIAS "CINEMA E FILOSOFIA"

Terça-feira, **15 de NOVEMBRO** de 2011
18h00, Sala multiusos 3, 4º Piso, Edifício I&D / FCSH-UNL

"In and Out of Character"
Murray Smith

ABSTRACT

In the preface to *Philosophy, Black Film, Film Noir*, Dan Flory writes of the "rat's nest of beliefs" that underpin our viewing and experience of any film – and especially those films that engage with the history and politics of race. This is an apt image for a domain which is indeed enormously complex, messy, and not a little uncomfortable to confront. In this paper I focus on three questions, of increasing generality, posed by *Philosophy, Black Film, Film Noir*. The first and most particular of these questions: is Flory right to say that Sal (in Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, 1989) a racist? My second question kicks the debate up one level and asks: how does the figure of the 'sympathetic racist' – exemplified by Sal and by Rocco in Lee's *Clockers* (1995), and on Flory's account, a central device in these films – work rhetorically? Finally, I turn to the first of the three terms in the title of Flory's book, by asking: can we regard these films as engaging in a kind of philosophy?

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Quarta-feira, *16 de NOVEMBRO* de 2011
16h30, Auditório 3, Torre B, FCSH-UNL

"An Uncomfortable Marriage of Film and Philosophy?"
Jinhee Choi

ABSTRACT

An ethical turn in contemporary film studies and theory has redirected attention from the universal and rational to the particular and affective (or visceral) as grounds for assessing both the epistemological and ethical value of the film medium. In this presentation, I examine various types of philosophical thinking, both continental and analytic, which bridge the film and philosophy disciplines as well as provide frameworks for ethical criticism and interpretation. I further aim to discuss to what extent the interdisciplinary nature of such an approach either deepens or hinders our understanding of the film medium.