

# **The city and film: imagination and desire**

The following presents an initial overview of a four week module on the city in film that is designed to fit with a larger course on mediated social identity. It was initially developed for possible inclusion in a UTS honours seminar: *Media Culture Identity*

## **1. City imagination and desire**

### Film texts:

- Scorsese: *My journey to Italy* (Sicily/New York)
- *Wings of Desire/City of Angels* (Berlin/LA)
- *Chungking Express* (Hong Kong)

### References:

Huang, Tsung-Yi, 2001, “*Chungking Express*: Walking with a map of Desire in the Mirage of the Global City,” *Quarterly review of Film and Video* 18:2

Bertozzi, Marco, 2000, “Visualising the past: The Italian city in early cinema,” *Film History*, 12: 3, pp. 322-29

Cook, Roger, 1991, “Angels, Fiction and History in Berlin: Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire*” *The Germanic Review*, 66:1

## **2. City, space, mobility and flow**

### Film texts:

- *Bicycle Thief* (Rome)
- *Beijing Bicycle*
- *Cyclo* (Hanoi)

### References:

R. Streitmatter-Tran, “Urban Vehicles: Mobility and Modernity in Contemporary Asian Cinema: A comparative reading of Wang Xiaoshuai’s *Beijing Bicycle* and Tran Anh Hung’s *Cyclo*. MIT

### **3. City, identity, sexuality**

#### Film and Cultural Texts:

- *Queer as Folk's* Manchester
- Hong Kong and Buenos Aires in *Happy Together*
- Rome: World Pride and the sacred city

#### References:

Binnie J.; Skeggs B. 2004, "Cosmopolitan knowledge and the production and consumption of sexualized space: Manchester's gay village," *The Sociological Review*, Volume 52: 1, pp. 39-61

Michael Luongo, 2002, "Rome's World Pride: Making the Eternal City an International Gay Tourism Destination," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 8: 1-2, pp. 167-181

### **4. Cities War and Terror: Dystopic Ruins in the films of David Fincher**

#### Film texts:

- *Aliens 3*
- *Seven*
- *Fight Club*
- *Panic Room*

#### References:

Steve Macek, 1999, "Places of horror: Fincher's *Seven* and *Fear of the City* in recent Hollywood film" *College Literature*; 26:1

Muzzio, Douglas, 1996, "Decent People Shouldn't Live Here" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 18:2, pp. 189-215

Hubbard, P.J. (2003) 'Fear and loathing at the multiplex: everyday anxiety in the post-industrial city' *Capital and Class* 80 51-76.

**Marcus O'Donnell 2005**