



**University of
Nottingham**
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**Transnational Radical Film Cultures:
An International Conference on Film, Aesthetics and Politics
(Radical Film Network Conference 2019)
Call for Presentations**

Date: 3-5 June 2019

Venue: The University of Nottingham (University Park Campus), UK

'Radicalism' is a concept with a diverse range of applications and 'radical film' can be used to describe a wide range of cultural practices. For most of those involved in the [Radical Film Network](https://radicalfilmnetwork.com/about/) (<https://radicalfilmnetwork.com/about/>), 'radicalism' refers first and foremost to a political affiliation with the Left and the various traditions that underpin it: from anarchism and socialism to radical environmentalism and struggles for racial, sexual and gender equality. But radicalism is about aesthetics as much as politics; it is about interrogating the nature of film language, experimenting with the medium and developing new approaches to audio-visual communication.

In keeping with the spirit in which the [Radical Film Network \(RFN\)](#) was founded, this conference aims to bring together the political and aesthetic avant-gardes, with a particular focus on the transnational nature of contemporary radical film cultures. By looking at how radical films are produced, circulated and engaged with in different parts of the world, the conference aims to shed light on the transnational nature of film cultures and the intersecting relationship between political struggle and aesthetic innovation. Bringing together filmmakers and researchers, the conference hopes to create new and consolidate existing connections and networks, facilitate transnational and cross-cultural dialogues, and forge global solidarity among radical filmmakers around the world.

Following the previous RFN conferences held in Birmingham (2015), Glasgow (2016), New York City (2017), Tolpuddle (2017) and Dublin (2018), the RFN 2019 Conference will take place in Nottingham, the [UNESCO City of Literature](#), to pay tribute to the city's radical heritage (represented by Robin Hood, the Luddites, the

Chartists, the Suffragettes, the striking miners and many more), and to celebrate the city's many and vibrant radical cultures. During the conference, participants will be invited to embark on a radical city tour and to attend some public events at the [Five Leaves Bookshop](#) and the [Nottingham Contemporary](#).

The conference will also take place on the eve of [Sheffield Doc/Fest](#), the international documentary film festival (6-11 June 2019). All RFN members are eligible for Doc/Fest's Organisational Discount, and we would urge conference delegates to attend the festival and bring their perspectives into this arena. To register interest in an Organisational Discount Pass to the festival, please email einfo@radicalfilmnetwork.com.

We particularly welcome filmmakers and researchers from the Global South, and contributions engaging with themes in the Global South from individuals and communities both inside and outside of academia. To this end, we may be able to offer a limited number of travel subsidies to participants from underprivileged backgrounds and the Global South. Please get in touch with the conference organisers to check eligibility once more details are announced in the spring of 2019.

Contributions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Radical aesthetics and politics;
- Political filmmaking and ethical issues;
- Class and radical films;
- Forms of radical film activism and political agitation;
- Programming, distribution and exhibition;
- Radical film festivals and audiences;
- Radical film history across national borders;
- (Self)-Representation, identity and privacy in radical film cultures;
- Collaborative and participatory practices in radical film cultures;
- Partnerships between radical filmmakers and institutions;
- Issues of inclusion/exclusion in radical film cultures;
- Radical film cultures, memory, the archive and preservation;
- Creativity and innovation in radical film cultures;
- Radical films and the proliferation of digital technologies;
- Radical film cultures in the Global South;
- Radical film cultures and future direction(s)

Interested participants are invited to submit proposals for one of the following formats:

- (1) a 20-minute presentation
- (2) a 1.5-hour panel (with 3-4 panellists)

(3) a 1-1.5-hour workshop on any aspect of radical film cultures

Proposals to a maximum of 300 words (presentation) or two-pages (panel or workshop) should be sent to:

Trfc2019conference@gmail.com

Please address any enquiries to the above address. Details of the complete programme will be announced in due course.

Important dates:

- **Deadline for submission of abstracts:** Thursday 31 January 2019
- **Notification of acceptance of abstracts:** Thursday 28 February 2019
- **Online registration opens:** Monday 4 March 2019
- **Early bird registration closes:** Monday 15 April 2019
- **Online registration closes:** Monday 20 May 2019

Registration:

Please register through the University of [Nottingham store](#) when registration opens.

- **Participants with institutional support:** £100
- **Standard registration fee:** £60
- **Early bird registration fee:** £40 (before 15 April 2019)
- **Unwaged participants:** £20

(We do not want the conference fees to be a barrier to attendance, so please do get in touch should this be the case.)

Organisers:

Hongwei Bao and Daniel Mutibwa (Department of Cultural, Media and Visual Studies, University of Nottingham, UK)

Partners:

[Radical Film Network](#)

[Nottingham Contemporary](#) and [Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

For more information about the conference, please visit the [Conference website](#).