Performing Bodies
Gesture, Affect, and Embodiment On Screen

“The cinema story starts with the human body, or an action. We always have, and we still love to watch human bodies in action. We also love to watch landscapes or things we have created, buildings or cigarettes, guns and cars... but above all, we love to watch human bodies, whether they’re walking, running, fucking, or anything.”
-Leos Carax

Friday, April 17th

4:00 PM  Opening Remarks
Tom Gunning, University of Chicago

4:30 PM  Screening of shorts/clips TBA

5:00 PM  Keynote Address: Walking Still
Elena Gorfinke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

6:15 PM  Reception

Saturday, April 18th

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  Panel 1: Performance Styles: Bodies Between Truth and Fiction
Chair, Zain Jamshaid, University of Chicago


Hannah Frank, University of Chicago “We Record Everything: Scientology, 70mm, and Somatic Signs in The Master”

Karly-Lynne Scott, Northwestern University “Performing (Non)Consent: Acting, Authenticity, and Ethics in Pornography”

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM  Panel 2: Corporeal Technologies: Sound and Image from Cinema to New Media
Chair, Pao-Chen Tang, University of Chicago

Laura Jaramillo, Duke University “ASMR: Affective Labor, Tactility, and Spectatorship”

Michael Metzger, Stanford University “Learning in Close Up: Chick Strand’s Zoom as a Gesture of Searching!”


1:15 AM – 2:15 PM  Break for Lunch

2:15 PM – 4:00 PM  Panel 3: Framing Gesture: Movement Within Social Worlds
Chair, Solveig Nelson, University of Chicago

Tess McIlernon, Concordia University “A Radical Archive: Gendered Gesture in Bruce Conner’s Marilyn Times Five”

Mary Hennessy, University of Michigan “Performing Paranoia: Margit Carstensen and Social Gestus”

Tien-Tien Jong, University of Chicago “Romancing the Cog: Dancing Automatons and the Artificial Woman in Powell and Pressburger’s Tales of Hoffmann”

Irina Schulzki, University of Munich “Exhibiting Bodies: Gesture in Kira Muratova’s Films”

4:15 PM  Round-table Discussion

Lauren Berlant, University of Chicago
Elena Gorfinke, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Yuri Tsivian, University of Chicago

5:00 PM  Closing Remarks

5:15 PM  Reception