Reimagining colonialism and diaspora: Lusophone films and Miguel Gomes’ Tabu (2012)

Intricate reasons have motivated movements, resettlements and relocations between Portugal and its former colonies over a little more than five centuries and established a dense network of historical, cultural and socio-political relationships. This intriguing liaison between the fluctuation from one country or region to another during colonialism and in its aftermath – and the construction of cinematic imaginaries within the Lusophone world will be the focus of my talk. I will argue that the mythical imaginary around the concepts of lusophony and luso-tropicalism have persisted so far in films on migration. A much-praised film Tabu by Miguel Gomes, 2012, finally points towards a necessary shift in the mediated depiction of migration in Portuguese-speaking cinema.

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