Cinema, Audiences and Modernity

The purpose of this book is to shed new light on the cinema and modernity debate by confronting established theories on the role of the modern cinematic experience with new empirical work on the history of the social experience of cinema-going, film audiences and film exhibition in Europe.

The book provides a wide range of research methodologies and perspectives on these matters, including:

- the use of oral history methods
- questionnaires
- diaries
- audience letters
- industrial, sociological and other accounts on historical film audiences.

The collection’s case studies thus provide a ‘how to’ compendium of current methodologies for researchers and students working on film and media audiences, film and media experiences, and historical reception.

The volume is part of a ‘new cinema history’ movement within film and screen studies to look at cinema history not only as a history of production, textual relations or movies-as-artefacts, but rather to concentrate on the reception and social experience of cinema, and the engagement of film/cinema (history) ‘from below’. The contributions to the volume reflect on the very different ways in which cinema has been accepted, rejected or disciplined as an agent of modernity in neighbouring parts of Europe, and on how cinema-going has been promoted and regulated as a popular social practice at different times in twentieth-century European history.

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New Perspectives on European Cinema History

Edited by
Daniel Biltereyst, Richard Maltby and Philippe Meers
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