

Annie Ernaux's *The Super 8 Years* (2022): Reclaiming a Woman's Life Story Intermedially

Fabien Arribert-Narce
(University of Edinburgh)

**December 15th, 2025,
17:30-19:00
Room 301. 3F. building 10,
Sophia University
No registration required
In person only**



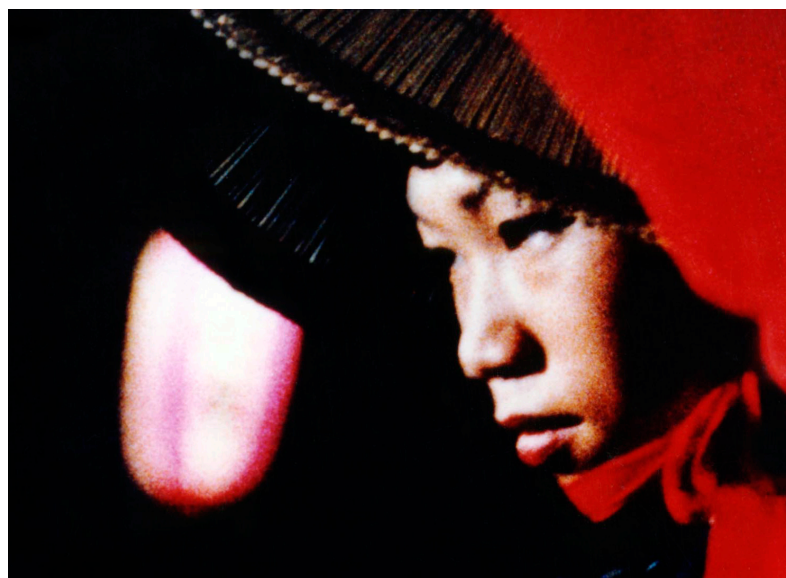
This talk will analyse intermedial (self-)reappropriation processes between images, words and sounds in Annie Ernaux's *The Super 8 Years*. Directed by her son David and narrated by Ernaux herself, this 2022 documentary film is made up of archival family footage shot between 1972 and 1981 by the Nobel Prize author's ex-husband, Philippe Ernaux. The film's soundtrack and the commentary she wrote to accompany these silent home movies give back agency and existential density to the "frozen woman" who appears on screen. By sharing with the viewers the thoughts, frustrations and hopes that animated her in her thirties, Ernaux undertakes a feminist rewriting of these postcard-like images forced upon her to express domestic happiness, and dominated by the male gaze of her ex-husband. She thereby reasserts in the film her independent, authoritative voice as a writer and a woman, she reclaims the fragments of her past life and remediates them to show their relevance for several generations of women across the world.



Dr Fabien Arribert-Narce is Senior Lecturer in French and Comparative Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where he is co-director of the MSc and PhD programmes on 'Intermediality: Literature, Film & the Arts in Dialogue'. Founding editor of the EUP book series '[Edinburgh Critical Studies in World Literature and Intermediality](#)', he is the author of *Photobiographies: pour une écriture de notation de la vie* (Champion, 2014), and editor of *The Pleasure in/of the Text* (Peter Lang, 2021), 'Writing the World with Michaël Ferrier' (*Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*, December 2023), *Intermedial Encounters between Image, Music and Text* (Peter Lang, 2024) and Annie Ernaux: *A Global Perspective* (1974-2024), forthcoming in 2026 with Brill.

This talk was organized by Hannah Holtzman (Assistant Professor, Sophia University).





From Wave to Wave:

Aesthetic Figurations of *Neo-Japonisme* in the French Cinematic Avant-Garde - Far Away, So Close

Anne-Gaëlle Saliot

December 18, 2025, 17:30-19:00

Room301, 3F, building 10, Sophia University

In person only

No registration required

This talk reconsiders postwar French cinematic modernism through the lens of *neo-Japonisme*, not as thematic citation but as a structural and epistemic operation. While the influence of the French New Wave on Japanese directors like Ōshima, Imamura, and Yoshida is well known, the originary reverse trajectory remains underexplored. Drawing on Claire-Akiko Brisset's revaluation of *Japonisme* as a postwar aesthetic logic, and Gilles Deleuze's theorization of the time-image, this talk argues that Japanese cinema shaped the formal strategies of French filmmakers such as Alain Resnais, Jacques Rivette, Jean-Luc Godard, and Chris Marker. Rather than functioning as mere narrative setting, Japan emerges as a principle of estrangement and formal experimentation. Films like *Hiroshima mon amour*, *The Nun*, and *Sans Soleil* reveal how classical Japanese cinema - Mizoguchi, Ozu, Kurosawa - enabled the French avant-garde to rethink cinematic time, space, and subjectivity. Japan, in this view, becomes a generative structure that subtly displaces Eurocentrism and opens a path toward global *cinephilia*.



Photo ©Julien Daniel

Anne-Gaëlle Saliot is Associate Professor of Romance Studies with a secondary appointment in Art, Art History, and Visual Studies at Duke University, where she also directs the Center for French and Francophone Studies. She is the author of *The Drowned Muse* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Her second book, *Troubling Modernities. Godard, Rivette, Truffaut and the 19th Century*, examines the nineteenth century as a political unconscious of the French New Wave. She is also the co-editor of the Cahiers de la NRF dedicated to Philippe Forest. Her current research explores the reception of Japan in French theory, cinema, and dance since 1945. She has published widely on figures including Maurice Blanchot, Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, Jacques Rivette, Alain Resnais, Maurice Pialat, Philippe Forest, Marguerite Duras, and contemporary dance. She has also created several performances combining literature and music for the Philharmonie de Paris; her most recent, *Duras Song*, premiered in June 2023.

This talk is organized by Hannah Holtzman (Assistant Professor, Sophia University).

