

# Funded PhD opportunity at the University of Leeds/Leeds Film: An Analysis of the History of Independent Film Exhibition in Leeds



## Lead Academic and Partner Organisation Supervisors

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## Project summary

This collaborative doctoral project seeks to break new ground by enabling a student to carry out an analysis on independent film exhibition in Leeds informed by both academic scholarship and practical experience of a series of regional film initiatives under the umbrella of **Leeds Film**. Such an analysis will fill a significant gap in cultural memory within the city: despite Leeds' link with film innovator Louis le Prince and early movie making, and despite currently having the largest number of DIY film exhibitions in the UK, very few discussions of film in Leeds appear in literature, academic or otherwise. A comprehensive historical overview of independent film exhibition in Leeds constitutes the first aim of the PhD project, with a number of potential research questions providing a specific focus which might include:

- 1) What is the impact of the Leeds International Film Festival and other exhibition initiatives on the city and local community, and to what extent does this impact match the expectations of the festival programmers and partners in Leeds City Council?
- 2) What are the effects on film culture in the region of constantly shifting patterns of a) taste, b) demographics, c) film funding?
- 3) How can we usefully trace/judge the impact of independent film exhibition in the region?

The time spent working with Leeds Film will be dictated by the exigencies of the student's research focus. The student will also have contact with the Hyde Park Picture House, as well as the National Media Museum in neighbouring Bradford. A further opportunity is available, depending on the focus of the research: an internship at the Durban International Film Festival. Interest in hosting a researcher has been confirmed by the Centre for Creative Arts, the umbrella organisation (similar to Leeds Film) in Durban.

## For more information about this project contact

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*In order to apply for funding you must have applied for a place of study at the University of Leeds by 9 January 2019, clearly stating you are applying for this project.*