

Title of BIP: Space and Performance in the Cinema

General information

Objectives and Description:

This BIP offers an opportunity to approach the study of cinema, with a particular focus on cinematic space and its relationship to the real and imaginary spaces it evokes. The BIP also explores the relationship between performance and space. The program mainly addresses cultural, social, and cinematic aspects within English-speaking contexts while simultaneously paying attention to transnational geographies.

Through practical examples, the sessions will delve into topics such as transnational mobilities, geographies of intimacy, gendered spaces, film stardom and its role in constructing transnational spaces, and the geographies of specific film genres such as romantic comedy or science fiction, among others. Special attention will be paid to cinematic spaces in US, European, and Australian cinemas.

As part of the BIP activities, students will attend film screenings at a local film festival devoted to cinema and the environment (EcoZine) and visit an exhibition related to film at a local museum (Caixaforum). The exhibition will most likely explore the cinema of Pixar Studios.

The program is led by members of the research project Performing Space / Spatializing Performance: The Interface between Actors and Space in 21st-Century Transnational Cinema (PerSpace), based at the University of Zaragoza and funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities. A list of participating lecturers from this and other European universities can be found in the "Partner Universities" list below.

Methods and outcomes:

The in-person component will consist of about 25 hours and around 5 hours will be devoted to the online component.

The online component will introduce key course concepts through a selection of videos or podcasts, some created by the teaching team. Students will engage with these materials through discussion forums and synchronous online sessions where the main concepts will be debated.

During the in-person sessions, the program will build on the strengths of each participating university by addressing various aspects of cinematic space from different perspectives. The course will have a highly practical orientation, based on viewing and analyzing film excerpts with the guidance of the teaching staff. Student participation in the seminars, workshops, and discussions will be essential.

The BIP will provide opportunities to reflect on its cultural program (film festival, visit to a museum) and to draw connections between the seminars and these cultural experiences.

3 ECTS will be awarded when the following criteria are met:

<p>a. participation in the online and in-person sessions (at least 80% of the sessions) and completion of the assigned activities.</p> <p>b. Completion of a final task, obtaining a mark of 5/10 or higher.</p>
<p>Field of Education: Film Studies, English Studies, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, US Studies.</p>
<p>Target audience / Participants profile: Undergraduate students / MA students / PhD students doing a degree related to the specific fields listed above.</p>
<p>No of ECTS issued: 3 ECTS.</p>
<p>Language of instruction and requirements: English</p> <p>Participants should have at least a B2 level of English, although a C1 level is desirable.</p>
<p>Dates for physical activity: April 13-17, 2026</p>
<p>Location of physical activity:</p> <p>Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Zaragoza (Address: Pedro Cerbuna, 12, Zaragoza, Spain).</p>
<p>Dates for virtual component:</p> <p>To be determined: two or three days between February and April 10.</p>
<p>Virtual Component Description:</p> <p>The online sessions will cover fundamental aspects of space and performance in the cinema. Lecturers will also introduce some of the essential elements that will be further explored and developed in the physical component. During the virtual component, there will be an introductory session for participants in which logistical aspects will be discussed.</p>
<p>Organizing Board</p>
<p>Receiving/Host university:</p> <p>Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain:</p> <p>Pablo Gómez Muñoz (Coordinator): pgomez@unizar.es</p> <p>María del Mar Azcona (Coordinator): maazcona@unizar.es</p> <p>Celestino Deleyto</p> <p>Julia Echeverría</p>

Sending/Partner universities:

- P1. Università di Torino**, Italy (Alberto Spadafora: alberto.spadafora@unito.it)
- P2. Transilvania University of Brasov**, Romania (Bogdan Popa: george.popa@unitbv.ro)
- P3. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**, Greece (Betty Kaklamanidou: kaklamad@film.auth.gr)
- P4. Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3**, France (David Roche: david.roche@univ-montp3.fr)
- P5. University of Galway**, Ireland (Conn Holohan: conn.holohan@universityofgalway.ie)

Other partners:

Rob Stone, University of Birmingham (r.stone@bham.ac.uk)

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

- BIP presentation: participants introduce themselves. Discussion of logistical aspects of the BIP.
- Introduction of key concepts around space and performance or case studies. Discussion forums.

2. Planned activities during physical component:

1st day:

BIP Opening

Introduction: Space in the Cinema

Love and space in romantic comedies

City tour

2nd day:

Gender performativity and space in US cinema

Film screening and discussion: in collaboration with EcoZine (a local film festival, film to be determined)

Performance and Gender Roles in *Poor Things*

3rd day:

Film space and the Mediterranean sea

Film screening and discussion: in collaboration with EcoZine (a local film festival, film to be determined)

Indigenous Spaces in Australian cinema

4th day:

Space, displacement, and audiovisual landscapes

Eastern European cities in contemporary cinema

Home and Homelessness in European Cinema

5th day:

Workshop: intersections between space and performance in the cinema

Museum visit: exhibition on Pixar films at Caixaforum museum. Group discussion.

BIP conclusions

Application procedure

Details about the application procedure can be provided by the local Erasmus office/International office or the local coordinator in each of the universities acting as sending partners.

Organizational funds:

The University of Zaragoza will cover some meals (five lunches at a dining hall) during the physical mobility, tickets to the museum and the city tour. If there are enough funds, the University of Zaragoza may also cover one dinner and some coffee breaks. The film festival screenings are free.

Accommodation:

The University of Zaragoza cannot provide accommodation, as students must pay for their own accommodation with the grant received from their universities. Booking accommodation in advance is highly recommended.

Hostal Ávila offers affordable rooms (35-50 euros per night) close to the university. Some rooms have been pre-booked and are available on a first-come, first-served basis: <https://www.elhostalavila.com/> Please contact pgomez@unizar.es for more information.

Colegio Mayor Pedro Cerbuna also offers rooms within the campus. Prices range between 30 and 67 euros per night, although the number of rooms available is very limited: <https://cerbuna.unizar.es/>

Other hotels close to the university include:

Hotel Gran Vía. <https://www.granviahotel.com/es/>

Hotel B&B Zaragoza Royal <https://www.hotel-bb.com/es/hotel/zaragoza-royal>

U Hotel Villa-Gomá <https://hotelvillagoma.es/>

The organizers can also provide other suggestions once students have been selected.

Travelling to Zaragoza:

By plane

You can reach Zaragoza by plane from Milan Bergamo, Roma-Fiumicino, Bucarest-Henri Coandă, Cluj Napoca, London Stansted, and Brussels Charleroi.

Ryanair and Wizz Air are currently the only carriers with international destinations. Please check their websites for details on dates and times of operation.

Otherwise, the airports in Barcelona or Madrid are good options.

By train

Zaragoza is very well-connected to Madrid and Barcelona by high-speed rail. It takes around 1 hour and 30 minutes to get to Madrid Atocha or Barcelona Sants. In Zaragoza, the main station is Zaragoza Delicias.

Trains on the Madrid-Zaragoza-Barcelona line are operated by Renfe, Ouigo and Iryo.

<https://www.renfe.com/es/en>

<https://www.ouigo.com/es/en>

<https://iryo.eu/en/home>

You can check the times of all trains (from different companies) here: <https://www.thetrainline.com/en-us>

RENFE and SNCF operate direct trains from French cities to Barcelona and Zaragoza.

Renfe operates the routes between Marseille and Zaragoza and between Lyon and Barcelona. You can check the current stops and times here: <https://www.renfe.com/es/en/renfe-group/communication/renfe-today/press-room/renfe-presents-ave-high-speed-services-france-two-routes-spain-lyon-marseille>

Information on the routes operated by SNCF (Paris-Barcelona) can be found here: <https://www.sncf-voyageurs.com/en/travel-with-us/in-europe/>

By bus

You may also consider travelling by bus. This can be an interesting option if your flight arrives late or departs early from the Madrid-Barajas airport, as some buses stop directly at the airport (Terminal 4). The journey from Zaragoza to Madrid's airport takes 3 hours and 30/45 minutes. You can check the times on the ALSA website: <https://www.alsa.com/en/web/bus/home>

deadline: January 30, 2026.

Number of spots available per university: 4. This limit can be extended if other universities nominate less than 4 students.