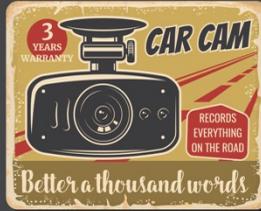


SINTA Lecture and Workshops | ONLINE

Nostalgia, Revival and the Modern Quest for a Lost Golden Age

29–31 March 2023

Prof. John Haines | University of Toronto



Nostalgia, Revival and the Modern Quest for a Lost Golden Age

29 March 2023

18:15– 20:00 CEST

online via Zoom

Evening Lecture

The modern quest for a lost Golden Age originates in the rise of European nation-states as world-class empires during the Renaissance period. I will look at three manifestations of this quest in three different media: the printed texts and images of early modern travel narratives, the audiovisual media of Third Reich propaganda, and the digital clips of "Bardcore" songs during the recent pandemic. As we will see, in all three, the twin motives of nostalgia and revival have played an indispensable role.

30 March 2023

14:15–18:00 CEST

online via Zoom

Workshop I: Revival as an expression of nostalgia

We are all surrounded by numerous objects and ideas from the past. Examples include reconstructed musical instruments from the Middle Ages, new motor vehicles based on older designs such as the new Fiat 500, or any number of books and films that restage events from the near and distant past. Despite the ubiquity of objects and entertainment steeped in the past, we seldom think of the overarching phenomenon of revival that lies behind them. In his essay "*Antiquarian Nostalgia and the Institutionalization of Early Music*" in the *Oxford Handbook of Music Revival* (2014), John Haines shows that the idea of reviving things ancient and medieval is not just a phenomenon of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, but one that has been around since the sixteenth century. One of the most important motivators Haines identifies for modern revivals of the past is nostalgia; specifically in the case of Europe's revival of its medieval past, a longing for a lost European Golden Age of indeterminate time and place.

This workshop will examine the role of the revival phenomenon in various dissertation projects presented by students. It will seek to question the motivation behind each manifestation of revival. The question to answer will be: How does nostalgia play out in different research projects of historical reconstruction or revival? The format of the workshop will be individual project presentations (20–25 mins.), followed by group discussions.

31 March 2023
14:15–18:00 CEST
online via Zoom

Workshop II: Nostalgia and the making of empire

The revival of a product or myth, which can evoke nostalgia on an imperialistic scale, requires a careful inquiry into the power relations behind it. This workshop examines the conditions and characteristics of objects, ideas or myths used in the service of imperial nostalgia. In the history of empires, revival and nostalgia have served as multitemporal motivators. An imperial artefact or myth is something of a timeless symbol of the past, constantly redefined over the epochs up to the present. Nostalgia in this context is both anchored in time and outside of time. It represents an idealization of the past on the one hand, and expresses the contemporary longing for a home that no longer exists or has never existed on the other.

In this workshop, students will present work related to how different artefacts or myths' nostalgic capacities are used in the service of empire. The main questions will be: What is empire and what role does nostalgia play in maintaining it? The format of the workshop will be individual project presentations (20–25 mins.), followed by group discussions.

John Haines

John Haines is professor of music and medieval studies at the University of Toronto. In addition to dozens of essays, he has published a number of books on topics ranging from shorthand writing to popular music. His two most recent books are *Chants du diable, chants du peuple: Voyage en musique au Moyen Âge* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018) and *Film Music: An Introduction in 11 Takes* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).



John Haines

Information
Registration

Registration and Readings

Registration

To get the zoom link: please send an e-mail to nicola.leuchter@unibe.ch

ECTS

To get the 1.5 ECTS you have to attend the lecture and both workshops.

Readings



Hochschule der Künste Bern
Haute école des arts de Berne
Bern Academy of the Arts



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