

Seminar organised jointly by the University of Stirling (Centre for Scottish Studies; Languages and Literature; Social Science) and the University of Edinburgh (Department of Sociology)

# Visual Cultures in Scotland and Argentina: an interchange

Thursday 25 April, 5-7pm

Seminar Room 3,  
Chrystal Macmillan Building  
15a George Square,  
Edinburgh, EH8 9LD  
(just off Middle Meadow Walk)

This seminar will bring together artists, academics and interested others from Argentina and Scotland in an exchange around contemporary developments in visual culture. Our focus is the relationship of visual art to local communities and broader cultural institutions at a time of uncertainty, debate and change in both countries, in broad terms and specifically in relation to cultural policy.

Presentations by the two invited speakers will be followed by informal discussion.

**Syd Krochmalny** is an artist and sociologist based in Argentina whose work explores the relationship between art, biography, society, politics, and sexuality in a liminal zone between action and research. He is involved in the artist-run CIA (Centre for Artistic Investigation!) and on the editorial board of its journal (<http://revista.ciacentro.org/>). His presentation '*The art of crisis and the crisis of success: visual arts in Argentina 2001-2011*' will trace contradictory developments in artists' practice over this decade and notably the effect on the Argentinian artworld of the economic and political meltdown of 2001 and subsequent economic recovery. It will highlight the mechanisms, spaces and forms of cultural experimentation generated by visual artists in response to the 2001 crisis, as well as the contradictory effects increasing institutionalisation and marketisation of art during economic recovery (2003-2007). The latter developments have undermined the solidarity of collective groups while reinforcing notions of a dichotomy between artistic practice and politics, and of the artist as professional, while underlining the influence of curators and collectors. Syd has recently been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Argentinian Research Council CONICET at the Institute of the Theory and History of Art Julio Payró in the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts at the University of Buenos Aires. He also researches and teaches in the Faculty of Social Sciences there.

**Simon Yuill** has been an editorial advisor of *Variant*, a member of the *Strickland Distribution* and promoter of artist-run activities in Glasgow and across Scotland. He is interested in a rigorous exploration of the practical effects and theoretical underpinnings of 'creative industries'. He is concerned, for example, with the effects of 'organisational isomorphism', a term that highlights how, whatever the internal structure and values by which an (artist-run) organisation defines itself, these structures and values will often come to replicate those of the external agencies (including government, private philanthropists and property developers) with which it must engage to secure funding. Notably funding mechanisms may be used by these external agencies as a means of discipline while artist-run practice may be used as a means to transfer risk from institutions to artists. He questions artworld critiques of neo-liberalism from 'within'. Simon is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Cultural Studies (Goldsmiths) has been Research Resident at the Piet Zwart Institute (Rotterdam) and later this year will be a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Warwick. <http://www.lipparosa.org>

Chairs:

**Sarah Wilson** (University of Stirling)

**Scott Hames** (University of Stirling)

<http://www.english.stir.ac.uk/research/profile/centerofscottishstudies.php>