

# **Political Cinema in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: conference, exhibition and launch event for the Radical Film Network, 7-8 February 2015**

*Supported by the Centre for Moving Image Research at the University of the West of England, Bristol; the Screen Cultures Group at the Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research, BCU; and Vivid Projects, Birmingham.*

**Venue:** Birmingham City University Parkside Campus and Vivid Projects

## **Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

Mike Wayne and Dee O'Neill  
Margaret Dickinson

## **Call for presentations/participation**

Neoliberal capitalism and its disastrous social, political and ecological consequences are wreaking havoc around the globe. In Britain as elsewhere, governments are cutting wages for the employed and taxes for the wealthy, and are busy waging campaigns of privatisation and (en)closure that are rendering hard-won social gains – such as universal healthcare or access to higher education – beyond the reach of working people. Without the support of their allies in the media industries, governments would find it immeasurably harder to manufacture the consent this kind of class warfare requires.

While the mainstream media remains overwhelmingly in the hands of the rich, artists and activists around the world are working hard to use the tools available to challenge that media power. In Britain as elsewhere, radical film culture has expanded significantly in recent years, and there is now a wealth of organisations and individuals dedicated to the production, distribution and exhibition of films broadly aligned with the politics of the radical left. In September 2013, representatives from a number of these organisations met to discuss ways in which those involved in radical film culture could work together to support its development, growth and sustainability, and formed the Radical Film Network (RFN) as a result ([www.radicalfilmnetwork.com](http://www.radicalfilmnetwork.com)).

*Political Cinema for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* is the inaugural event of the RFN. We invite all those active or interested in radical film culture to come and discuss their work and ideas, meet those involved in the RFN so far, and debate the past, present and future of radical film in Britain and around the world. Contributions can be up to 20 minutes in length, in any format you like, and cover any or more of the following topics:

- What is radical film/history/culture/practice?
- Your or your organisations' practice (as filmmaker/s, exhibitors, artist/s, researcher/s etc.)

- The relationship/s between radical film culture and ‘the mainstream’
- The relationships and/or crossovers between professionals and amateurs, paid and unpaid, academics and activists etc.
- New technologies/formats/platforms: consequences and possibilities
- Historical and theoretical perspectives on radicalism and the moving image
- Funding and policy: opposition, intervention or assimilation?
- Pedagogy and radical film: practice, history, theory

To register to attend and to suggest a presentation/topic for debate, please email Steve Presence ([Stephen.presence@live.uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.presence@live.uwe.ac.uk)) by **October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014**.