

The Dorothy Complex:

Children and migration in world cinema

“There’s no place like home” ... except of course for the home we make, or the homes that are made for us, in Oz: which is anywhere and everywhere, except the place from which we began (Salman Rushdie, 1992:57)

A Leverhulme Lecture by:

Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald

Dean of Media and Communication, RMIT University.

Future Fellow and Professor of Comparative Film, University of New South Wales.

Tuesday 14 February 2012, 17:30, followed by Wine Reception

Parkinson Building 1.08

University of Leeds, LS2 9JT

Limited seats! Please register now with Helen Costelloe: H.Costelloe@leeds.ac.uk



The child in cinema is a powerful fantasy figure, deployed to embody and aestheticise accelerated motion, sociopolitical displacement, and ontological transition, all of which conditions generate adult anxiety and fear. When the child leaves home, adult fear is both accentuated and brought to an exquisite peak of renewal and possibility. When the child migrates, that departure signals national and transnational impacts and affect. This lecture considers ways in which Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* is a template and a touchstone for narratives of child migrations and adult anxiety since 1939.

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