

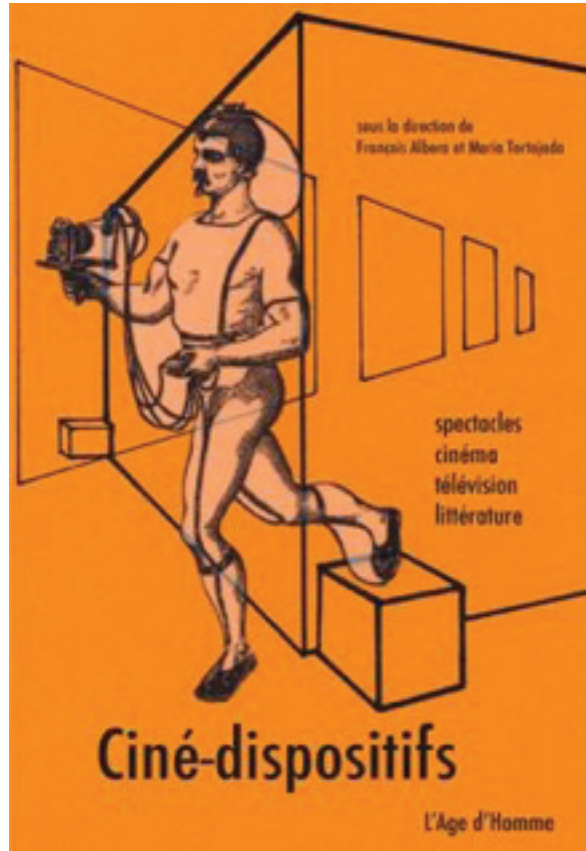
# ARTHEMIS

The Advanced Research Team on the History and Epistemology  
of Moving Image Studies  
is pleased to present a lecture with

**Maria  
Tortajada**  
(Université de Lausanne)

## Beyond Apparatus Theory

Viewing and Listening  
“Dispositives”: Towards an  
Epistemology



**March 16th  
2012  
16h00**

**MB:  
\$2.285**

(Molson Building)

(1450 Guy,)

**Concordia  
University**

### Abstract:

The recent renewal of film history scholarship has led to new methodologies and new definitions of what cinema is. Above all, it has driven scholars to posit a plurality of meanings for “cinema,” both in the past and in the present. In this spirit, the essays collected in *Cinema Beyond Film* (2010) all stressed the need for film scholarship to beyond issues of representation, film analysis or auteurism by investigating instead the cinematic “dispositive” – a more accurate translation of the French word “dispositif”. This term suggests that our concern doesn’t rest with a specific machine, media, or device, but rather with a web of relations between machines, media or devices. The “dispositive approach” not only allows the historian to “decompartmentalize” different dispositives that

belong to cinema, photography, television, the Internet and so on, it also helps us unveil certain practices and conceptualizations that are otherwise hidden from view when we investigate film and photography (or any other media) solely from the perspective of their “birth”, looking for an “origin” in linear, internal or even parallel causalities. As a methodology, the “dispositive approach” is clearly a relative of Foucauldian archeology. However, it is perhaps even closer to a tradition in French scientific epistemology epitomized by the work of Gaston Bachelard. This talk will introduce this methodology, adapting it to specific objects: viewing and listening dispositives. It will also seek to clarify how the notion of dispositive relates to that of apparatus and to the question of power as conceived by Foucault.