



**CONFERENCE**

## **LAW MEETS FILM**

**25 November 2024**

Università di Torino - Campus Luigi Einaudi  
Lungo Dora Siena, 100/A - Torino (Italy)  
Room: Sala lauree blu

## Films

Movies mirror the views held in the society on law, directly or indirectly. The conference centres on the cinematic form and the content of the films and their relevance to law and the society. The questions will be discussed on the basis of three recent films. The films easily available are not shown at the conference, with the exception of "Burning Days" (see below).



### **OPPENHEIMER**

*Christopher Nolan, USA, 2023*

The epic thriller narrates the paradox of an enigmatic man willing to destroy the world to save it. Oppenheimer's story is both dream and nightmare. He knew that testing the atomic bomb could ignite the atmosphere and destroy the world, but he pressed the button anyway. The story illustrates the rise and fall of a multifaceted personality in the context of war and of a seminal conflict between conscience and science without boundaries. Oppenheimer's decision still reverberates to this day.



### **ANATOMY OF A FALL (Anatomie d'une chute)**

*Justine Triet, France, 2023*

When her husband Samuel is mysteriously found dead in the snow below their secluded chalet, Sandra becomes the main suspect when the police begin to question whether he fell or was pushed. The trial soon becomes not just an investigation, but a gripping psychological journey into the depths of Sandra and Samuel's complicated marriage. With conflicting evidence and inconsistent testimony, words are wielded like weapons and shocking truths come to light in this thrilling Palme d'Or winner.



### **BURNING DAYS (Kurak Günler)**

*Emin Alper, Turkey, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Croatia, 2022*

Emre, a young and dedicated prosecutor, is newly appointed to a small town hit by a water crisis and political scandals. After an initial welcome, he experiences an increasing number of tense interactions and is reluctantly dragged into local politics. When Emre forms a bond with the owner of the local newspaper pressure escalates under heated rumours.

*The film "Burning Days" (OV, English subtitles) will be screened on Friday, 22 November 2024 at 5pm, in the Aula Magna, Campus Luigi Einaudi, Lungo Dora Siena 100/A, Torino, preceded by a brief introduction. Free entrance.*

**Program and registration:** [events.unifr.ch/droitcinema](https://events.unifr.ch/droitcinema)



The Conference is organised by Walter Stoffel and Lucie Bader (Association Film, Law and Society, Fribourg), Gianmaria Ajani (Professor of Law and Arts, University of Torino), in collaboration with Michel Heinzmann (Professor of Law, University of Fribourg), Michele Graziadei and Simona Novaretti (Professors of Law, University of Torino).

# Program

9h30	Registration
10h-10h15	<b>Opening session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gianmaria AJANI (University of Torino)</li><li>• Vincenzo CRUPI (Scuola di Studi Superiori Ferdinando Rossi, University of Torino)</li><li>• Walter STOFFEL (University of Fribourg)</li></ul>
10h15-10h45	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walter STOFFEL / Lucie BADER (University of Fribourg): <i>Who meets Whom?</i></li></ul>
10h45-12h15	<b>1st session: Films on legal problems – Michele GRAZIADEI</b> (University of Torino, presiding) Film: <i>Oppenheimer</i> , Christopher Nolan, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elisabeth BRONFEN (University of Zurich): <i>The Cold War on Trial</i></li><li>• Naomi MEZEY (Georgetown Law, Washington): <i>Oppenheimer and the Futility of Law</i></li></ul> General Discussion
12h15-13h15	Lunch
13h15-14h45	<b>2nd session: Films mirroring law – Michel HEINZMANN</b> (University of Fribourg, presiding) Film: <i>Burning Days</i> (Kurak Günler), Emin Alper, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ferdinando SPINA (University of Salento): <i>As strangers – The loneliness of judge and the structural inadequacies of law</i></li><li>• Lucie BADER and Emin ALPER (film director): <i>Politics, law and tradition</i>, film talk</li></ul> General Discussion
14h45-15h15	Break
15h15-16h45	<b>3rd session: Films on legal procedures / “court room dramas” – Simona NOVARETTI</b> (University of Torino and CTLS London, presiding) Film: <i>Anatomy of a Fall</i> (Anatomie d’une chute), Justine Triet, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stefan MACHURA (Bangor University, Bangor, Wales, UK): <i>‘Anatomy of a Fall’ in the context of the courtroom drama genre</i></li><li>• Antoinette MAGET DOMINICÉ (University of Geneva): <i>Once-only? Intimacy as a legal argument</i></li></ul> General Discussion
16h45-17h05	<b>Synthesis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peter ROBSON (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow): <i>Law and Film – the future</i></li></ul>
17h05-17h15	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gianmaria AJANI / Walter STOFFEL</li></ul>

## Speakers, Panel Presidents and Organisers

**Elisabeth BRONFEN**, Cultural scientist, author and freelance curator. Global Distinguished Professor New York University. Emerita University of Zurich, since 2023. Literature and visual culture, femininity and death, cross-mapping as a hermeneutic process, TV dramas, Shakespeare and seriality. Monographs, anthologies, essays and contributions to exhibition catalogues. A cookery memoir and a novel.

**Naomi MEZEY**, Law professor at Georgetown University. Teaches civil procedure, jurisprudence, gender & sexuality, law & popular culture, and nationalism. Interdisciplinary scholarship on legal regulation of sexual, gender, racial, and national identities, film and visuality, and sovereignty. B.A. from Wesleyan University, a M.A. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

**Stefan MACHURA**, Dr. rer. soc., Dr. rer. pol. habil., is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Bangor University (UK). Publications include *Law and Film* (co-edited with Peter Robson, 2001), *Recht im Film* (co-edited with Stefan Ulbrich, 2002), *Krieg im Film* (co-edited with Rüdiger Voigt, 2005) and *Law and War in Film* (editor, 2024).

**Ferdinando SPINA**, PhD, is associate professor of Sociology of Law at the University of Salento, where he teaches courses on the sociology of law, sociology of crime, crime and media. His most recent publications include the book *Vigilante Justice in Society and Popular Culture. A Global Perspective*, edited with P. Robson, and the book *La legge nelle proprie mani (The Law in One's Own Hands)*.

**Emin ALPER**, Turkish filmmaker and historian. He holds a Ph.D in Modern Turkish History and teaches at Istanbul Technical University. His films *Tepenin Ardı* (Beyond the Hill), *Abluka* (Frenzy) and *A Tale of Three Sisters*, received many awards. His latest work *Burning Days* (Kurak Günler) has been presented in numerous festivals including Cannes in the section Un Certain Regard.

**Antoinette MAGET DOMINICÉ**, Full Professor for Art Law and the Director of the Academic Art Law Center at the University of Geneva. She is trained in law and in art history. She has worked in museums and academic institutions in Paris, Munich, Vienna and Cairo. Her research focuses on the material circulation of cultural goods, as well as on issues at the crossroads of artistic and legal disciplines.

**Peter William Greenwell ROBSON**, LL.B. (St. Andrews University); Ph.D. (Strathclyde); Solicitor; Judge (1992-2022); Professor of Social Welfare Law. University of Strathclyde (1992- 2019). Numerous books on law and film, including *Film and the Law: the cinema of justice* (2010), *From Bloodbaths to Parody - Western Cinema's Uneasy Relationship with Rape Revenge Themes - a fresh approach?* (2024).

**Michele GRAZIADEI**, Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Torino. Author of over 150 publications, including *The Anthropology of European Law* (Foblets et al., *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology*, 2022). Past President European Association of Law Faculties (Efla); Italian Society for Research on comparative law (SIRD). Titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law

**Michel HEINZMANN**, Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) since 2011. Deputy judge at the Fribourg Cantonal Court and member of the High Council of the Judiciary of the Canton of Fribourg. Co-organizer of the series "Law in the Movies", a seminar and yearly round table event at the University of Fribourg (since 2020).

**Simona NOVARETTI**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Law, University of Turin, for Chinese Law, Comparative Law, and Law and Society in Asia. Research areas: Chinese Law, in particular Chinese Civil and Procedural Law, Law and Culture, Law and Language, Cultural Heritage Protection, Bioethics and the Law. Academic co-director of the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London, 2023-2024.

**Vincenzo CRUPI** is full professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of Torino. He is President of the Scuola di studi Superiori Fernando Rossi, Vice-president of the European Association for Philosophy of Science, and member of the Academia Europaea.

**Gianmaria AJANI**, Professor of Law and past Rector, University of Turin. Teaches and researches AI Ethics, Big Data regulation, Law and Visual Arts, Comparative Law and Economics, artists' rights, law & technology. Co-founder *Brill Research Perspectives in Art and Law*. Doctor h.c., Université de Savoie, Guest Professor, University of Bergen, Norway, Honorary Professor, Shanghai Normal University, PRC.

**Lucie BADER**, Studies in journalism, film and media management in Zurich, Washington D.C. and Linz. Professor in film and co-director of the Master's program, Zurich University of the Arts, 1992- 2012. Member of the Swiss Film Academy, jury member in film festivals. Since 2013, director of *outreach gmbh* (media and science communication), lecturer at the University of Fribourg (*Law in the Movies*).

**Walter STOFFEL**, Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), 1986-2020. Dean 1998-2000. Academic Co-director Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS), London, 2020-2022. Organizer and founder *Law in the Movies*, University of Fribourg (since 2013), with Lucie Bader. Ombudsman, University of Fribourg. Professor at UniDistance Brigue (distance learning university).