Call for Papers: SCREENING MELBOURNE: A Three-Day Symposium

To be held in association with the Universities of Deakin, La Trobe, Melbourne, Monash, RMIT and Swinburne; and in partnership with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, the Australian Film Institute, and the ARC Centre for Excellence for the History of Emotions.

Wednesday 22nd--Friday 24th February 2017
Venues to include: ACMI, Deakin Edge, Federation Square, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

Confirmed keynote: Lesley Stern, Professor Emerita University of California, San Diego.

Selection of the best papers to be published in *Senses of Cinema*.

Screen media form the connective tissue of Melbourne's cultural life. From key moments in early cinema, such as the production of the world's first feature film *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, to the broadcast of national events like the Melbourne Cup and AFL Grand Final, to early video game developers such as Beam Software setting up in the city, there is barely a section of Melbourne that is not illuminated by screen culture. This three-day symposium, organised by the cross-institutional Melbourne Screen Studies Group, will chart this vibrant activity through presentations, panel discussions, industry events, and screenings.

We are inviting submissions for research papers, panels, and non-traditional research presentations for this exciting event. Industry and medium specific presentations are welcome, as well as those that adopt a broader view of Melbourne's screen cultures and make comparisons with national and international examples. Proposal topics might include, but are not limited to the following, areas:

Melbourne on Screen
From dramas like *Romper Stomper* to suburban soap opera *Neighbours* and the superhero adventure *Ghost Rider*, the diversity of Melbourne's landscape, architecture, and people allow the city to tell any number of screen stories. We encourage papers that consider how Melbourne is depicted on screen for local and international audiences, as well as proposals that explore how the city is used as an anonymous space. Related topics might include multiculturalism and migration, celebrity, authorship, special effects/affects, authenticity, emotional histories of Melbourne screen culture, Melbourne as a city of *a*ffect, and tourism.

Screen Cultures in Melbourne
Melbourne offers a fertile example of how a city can engage with screen culture, from historic movie palaces and film societies to public screenings and events. Proposals that examine screen cultures, including the institutions that support them, are welcome. Explorations of the interrelated roles of gaming and advertising in citizens' everyday and screen-related experiences of place and aesthetics are encouraged, as are proposals that address the documentary and experimental forms. We also invite proposals on photography, pre-cinema screens and the use of mobile screens,

especially framed in relation to film culture, narrative and/or aesthetics. These proposals could range from research papers to practice-led approaches to capturing Melbourne's screen memories and experiences.

Seeing Difference
As a city, Melbourne's identity has been actively cultivated through references to difference, political action and alternative culture. Screen texts as diverse as *Annie's Coming Out*, *Head On*, and *Please Like Me* are suggestive of the variety of ways in which difference has helped bring Melbourne to the screen. We invite proposals that consider these intersections between politics, identity, and difference.

Early and Silent Melbourne
Melbourne is home to many milestones and major works of early and silent cinema, including the 1896 Melbourne Cup carnival, the 1900 multimedia work *Soldiers of the Cross*, and, of course, the 1906 feature film *The Story of the Kelly Gang*. Proposals are invited that chart this energetic early period in Melbourne's screen life.

Melbourne on Page and Screen
Melbourne has inspired artists in a range of forms. We encourage papers that consider how Melbourne-set stories have made the transition from page to screen such as *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *On The Beach*, and *The Slap*, as well as texts that utilise transmedia paradigms.

Conference Organised by the Melbourne Screen Studies Group https://melbournescreenstudies.wordpress.com/

Proposals of 250-300 words for individual presentations or full panels (3 or 4 papers, 250-300 words per paper with lead author nominated) should be sent to screeningmelbourne@gmail.com by **September 1st 2016**, along with a 150-word bio. Queries can also be directed to this address.