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The American Corner Innsbruck cordially invites you to the talk

Framing Babies: Arnold Gesell's Infant Behavior Films

Professor Scott Curtis
Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

Monday, 15 November 2010, 6.15 p.m.
 Room 4U102a (GeiWi building, basement)

This lecture will consider the work of American psychologist Arnold Gesell (1880-1961), who, from the 1920s through the 1940s, used motion picture technology at the Yale Clinic of Child Development to record the behavior of hundreds of children, ranging from infants to adolescents. These research films formed the basis of Gesell's theories of development and served as illustrations in his many publications. Indeed, much of what we feel we know about infant development comes from Gesell's work—which in turn comes from his use of motion pictures. So this lecture will demonstrate the intricate and fascinating relationship between a technology, a method of analysis, and a theory of child development. In other words, it will show just how important motion pictures are to our understanding of the human infant.



Scott Curtis is Associate Professor of Radio/Television/Film at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he teaches film history and theory. His research focuses on early and silent-era cinema, but he is particularly interested in the institutional appropriation of motion pictures, such as educational filmmaking or the use of moving image technology as a scientific research tool or diagnostic instrument. He has published on a wide variety of topics, including early film theory; film sound; animation; Alfred Hitchcock; Douglas Fairbanks; the Motion Picture Patents Company; industrial film; and the scientific use of motion pictures, such as medical cinematography and microcinematography. He is also the President of Domitor, an international association dedicated to the study of early cinema.



Looking forward to welcoming you to this ACI event,

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gudrun M. Grabher
 Director, American Corner Innsbruck