Law cinema club - The underbelly of law

General outline

Welcome to the Law Cinema Club 2018/19! The theme for this first cinema club is ‘The underbelly of law’. The selected set of movies will focus on some of the aporias and paradoxes of law, to help the audience to think about law beyond its seamless and fully-working façade and to explore theoretically its darks recesses.

To this end, the movies have been selected according to two concurring criteria:

- First, law must play a role in the filmic plot but the movie itself must not address explicitly a legal or political problem (we have made one exception to that though);
- Secondly, we wanted to address movies that give a glimpse of the interstices of the legal order, at what occurs between, beyond, and below the law while law is supposed to be working.

Law, therefore, must not figure in the movie as a solution to a given problem, but rather as a problem in and of itself, a mechanism that is supposed to orderly regulate society but eventually makes apparent its own contradictions and limitations.

The goal of each screening is to look at the legal order from an askew perspective in order to open deep and troubling questions about the very concept of law.

Through the filmic approach to legal issues (such as the relationship between power and legality, the difficulty of judging, the obverse effects of legal rules, the tension between law and morality, etc.), viewers will challenge in new ways their own assumptions and knowledge of the legal field, and identify the latter’s problematic fissures. And that they will enjoy some good movies, of course!

Practical information:

The cinema club will convene roughly once a month for a total of six meetings across the autumn and spring terms, and will be open to students and staff.

The event will last around three hours each time and will be structured as follows: a general introduction of the film will be made, followed by the film screening and, subsequently, a debate.

A panel consisting of three members of staff (Dr Acosta, Dr Martire, and a third special guest either from Law or other Departments) will lead the discussion on the film after the screening. The panellists will offer critical commentary and reflections on the film, followed by a set of questions designed to structure the subsequent debate involving all attendees.

One last thing: we will tell you only the first title in advance, but will withhold the others until screening. We want these screenings to represent a transformative experience and we think this will work best if you do not know what is waiting for you.
All movies will be screened on Wednesdays in room 3.31 WMB from 6pm to 9pm, on the following dates:

**Autumn term**
- 10\(^{th}\) of October 2018: M (Fritz Lang, Germany, 1931)
- 7\(^{th}\) of November 2018
- 5\(^{th}\) of December 2018

**Spring term** - TBC