



LOCATION :

- MAY 13: INA GRAND EST - MAISON DE L'IMAGE (1ER ÉTAGE), 31 R. KAGENECK, STRASBOURG
- MAY 14: SALLE DE CONFERENCE, MISHA, 5, ALLÉE DU GÉNÉRAL ROUVILLOIS, STRASBOURG
- [HTTP://WWW.MISHA.FR/ACCES.HTM](http://www.misha.fr/acces.htm)

ORGANIZERS:

- CHRISTIAN BONAH, SAGE, UMR 7363 UDS
- ANJA LAUKÖTER, MPI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, BERLIN;
- INSTRUIRE, INFORMER, COMMUNIQUER, ÉDUQUER. LE FILM DE FAITS MÉDICO-SANITAIRE EN FRANCE, 1900-1960, MEDFILM. PROGRAMME ANR
- HISTOIRE DU FILM MÉDICAL ET SANITAIRE EN FRANCE ET EN ALLEMAGNE: RECHERCHE, ENSEIGNEMENT ET PROPAGANDE, 1895-1960, HISTFILM. PROJET GIS MONDES GERMANIQUES, MISHA
- PROJECTIONS DU RHIN SUPÉRIEUR, RH(E)INFILM. PROJET INTERREG IV OS N°A25.
- IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUT NATIONAL AUDIOVISUEL, INA.



13+14

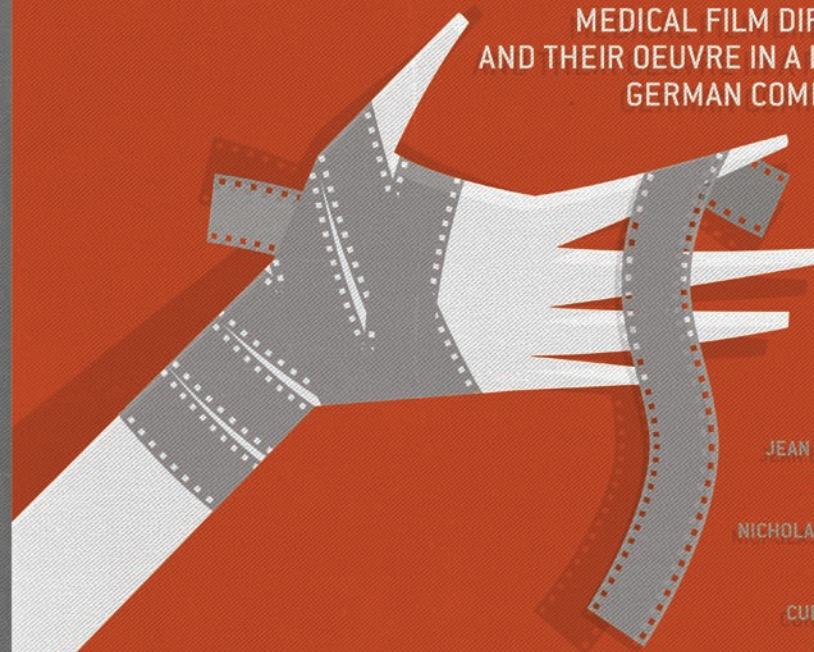
MAY 2013

MISHA, SALLE DE CONFÉRENCE  
5 ALLÉE DU GÉNÉRAL  
ROUVILLOIS  
STRASBOURG

MEDFILM WORKSHOP 5 IN ASSOCIATION  
WITH HISTFILM & RH(E)INFILM

# MISSIONARY & COMMISSIONED

MEDICAL FILM DIRECTORS  
AND THEIR OEUVRE IN A FRANCO-  
GERMAN COMPARISON



JEAN BENOIT-LÉVY  
1888 / 1959

NICHOLAS KAUFMANN  
1892 / 1970

CURT THOMALLA  
1890 / 1939



THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN GERMANY AND FRANCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY HAS IDENTIFIED, IN BOTH COUNTRIES:

1 | An intense and constant growth in the use of cinematography for public health instruction. Dealing with topics such as sexual hygiene and infectious diseases to enlighten and to instruct the public, these films became more elaborate and complex in a filmic sense, developing from a pure documentary character to more differentiated, sophisticated and even avant-garde forms.

2 | Despite the increase of medical film production, central figures dominated the medical film production from the 1920s to the 1950s in both countries: Jean Benoit-Lévy (1888-1959) in France and Nicholas Kaufmann (1892-1970) and Curt Thomalla (1890-1939) in Germany. Further, these figures were all at the centre of intellectual networks.

This workshop aims to analyse developments of medical film history by comparing the oeuvre of Benoit-Lévy and Kaufmann/Thomalla and to address questions of bio-political discourses, political involvement of the directors, their choice of medical topics, their publications, their use of film developments, the modes of medical film production, as well as the projection of the films and their reception.

By discussing their work in a French-German comparative perspective, we aim to question dominant interpretations and frameworks as the individual/local versus national or the national versus the global. Additionally, this broader comparative perspective will provide new insights into mutual film influences: not only how one film inspired another but how networks of influence evolved over almost half a decade.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES: ENGLISH / FRENCH

**13** MAY 2013

17:00-19:30

Film screening at INA - Maison de l'image,  
31 rue Kageneck, Strasbourg

WORKS OF THE TWO FILM DIRECTORS JEAN BENOIT-LÉVY  
AND NICHOLAS KAUFMANN/CURT THOMALLA

20:00

Dinner

**14** MAY 2013

9:00-9:15

INTRODUCTION

Methodological reflections for a systematic comparative perspective on health education films. Jean Benoit-Lévy versus Curt Thomalla / Nicolas Kaufmann

CHRISTIAN BONAH AND ANJA LAUKÖTTER

9:15-13:00

SESSION 1 / EDUCATIONAL FILMS FROM WORLD WAR I TO  
WORLD WAR II AND BEYOND

Les films de santé publique de Jean Benoit-Lévy

THIERRY LEFEBVRE (CERILAC, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-DIDEROT)

Public health, beautiful landscapes and 'the body of the dominant race'. Aspects of continuity and change in Nicholas Kaufmann's Films

URSULA VON KEITZ (UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ)

Le Ministère de l'agriculture, l'INA et le fonds Jean-Benoit-Lévy: Regard sur une démarche collaborative pour la conservation d'un fonds de films institutionnels

BRICE AMOUROUX (DIRECTION DÉLÉGUÉE AUX COLLECTIONS, INA PARIS)

"Clean and pleasant" - or learning from the unpleasant? Continuities and discontinuities in N. Kaufmann's post WWII Health education films

UTA SCHWARTZ (BUNDESZENTRALE FÜR GESUNDHEITLICHE AUFKLÄRUNG BZGA)

Commentary

PHILIPP STIASNY (RHEINFILM, UNIVERSITY HEIDELBERG)

14:00-18:00

SESSION 2. MEDICAL FILMS IN A FRANCO-GERMAN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Path of Conviction: Strategies of Persuasion in Films of Thomalla/Kaufmann and Benoit-Lévy/Epstein

ANITA GERTISER (SEMINAR FILMWISSENSCHAFT, UNIVERSITY ZÜRICH)

Images de la jeune mère et du nourrisson dans l'œuvre de J. Benoit-Lévy et de Nicolas Kaufmann

ANNE MASSERAN (CREM, EA 3476, UNIVERSITÉ DE LORRAINE)

Transmissible infection: Medical concepts for infectious disease prevention in health education films. J Benoit-Lévy and Nicolas Kaufmann/Curt Thomalla compared

CHRISTIAN BONAH (SAGE, UMR 7363, UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG)

Animated Emotions in health education films: J Benoit-Lévy and Nicolas Kaufmann/Curt Thomalla compared

ANJA LAUKÖTTER (MPI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, BERLIN)

Commentary

PHILIPP OSTEN (INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY HEIDELBERG)