

Title – A Case of Minor History? Agency and dissent in Italian “independent” cinema, between art and counter-information, viewing modalities, and experimental film-format practices (1961-1976)

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ERC sector – SH5

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Organization of PI – University of Udine

Iuav role – partner

Duration – 24 months

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Description – The focus of this research is the reconstruction of “independent” cinema practices, the latter understood as “indicators” of the changes that took place between 1961 and 1976 in Italy’s visual culture – that is, the processes in which the visible aligned with enunciatory regimes and manifested as “actions”, languages, research, experimentation, political militancy, antagonisms. The aim is to investigate the various approaches to cinema and filmmaking in a (not exclusively Western) context that was internationally oriented towards the paradigm of the “new” (NACG, Nouvelle Vague, Cinema Novo etc.) – which also needs to be investigated – and towards auteur cinema.

Objectives – The research centers on “independent” cinema, and intends to investigate both its marginal position with respect to the culture industry and the ways it intersected and overlapped with the latter. From such a perspective, the project aims first of all to arrive at documentary reconstruction of the genealogy, the production contexts, and the history of cultural transmission of all those heterogeneous practices designated by the locution “independent” cinema.

With these premises, the research intends to: analyze the theoretic-methodological frameworks according to which independent cinema was registered by the historiographies of Italian cinema; examine the points of contact between cinema criticism and the historiographic needs; inquire as to the motivations that led to omitting to record the plurality of independent cinema practices, which together concurred, through specific processes of agency and modalities dissent (Rancière, 1995; 2000, 2008), to construct new realms of visibility emerging from the process of internationalization (specifically between Europe and North America) of Italian visual culture in the period 1961-1976.



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