

WORLD MAKING AND EXTRACTION: ECO- MATERIALIST HISTORIES OF FORESTRY AND FILM IN CANADA



MAY 20TH AT 3:30PM PST

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://SEATTLEU.ZOOM.US/J/6498489179](https://seattleu.zoom.us/j/6498489179)

Examining both industry and government sponsored films from the 1920s to the 1960s, and drawing on Adrian Ivakhiv's process-relational account of cinematic ecologies, this paper argues that forestry films in Canada did not simply represent or document a process of resource extraction, but that the films were a key part of that process – in social, perceptual, and material ways. As instructional, industrial, and promotional works, the films made the vast forests of British Columbia consumable – both visually and literally. These films did not simply transform how the forest was seen on screen; they transformed the extra-cinematic forests themselves. Beyond the particular context of the BC logging sector, this project also aims to consider industrial film's practical and aesthetic roles together in order to better understand the ways in which useful media can shape the landscape and our relationship to it. Even more broadly, this project points to the ways in which industrial film must be written into the history of human caused environmental destruction as well as wider scholarly debates about the social, political, and ecological power of media to affect change in the world.

Joseph Clark is a lecturer in film studies at Simon Fraser University. His research and teaching focus on archival and non-theatrical media, including newsreels, home movies, and sponsored film. He is the author of *News Parade: The American Newsreel and the World as Spectacle* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020).