

PHD RESEARCH

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Gent Kinemastad. A multi-disciplinary research project on the history of film exhibition, programming, and cinema-going in Ghent and its suburbs (1896-2010) as a case study within New Cinema History research - [Original

Title : *Gent Kinemastad. Een multimethodisch onderzoek naar de ontwikkeling van de filmexploitatie, filmprogramming en filmbeleving in de stad Gent en randgemeenten (1896-2010) als case binnen New Cinema History onderzoek*

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This doctoral thesis is inspired by the perspectives of New Cinema History which seeks to achieve a social history of a cultural institution and aims to identify film as a cultural artefact consumed by a variety of audiences. Using these three perspectives, the doctorate focuses upon the history of film exhibition, film programming, and cinema-going in Ghent and its suburbs (1896-2010) using a combination of different methods. First, a longitudinal database has collected historical data on the differentiated forms of film exhibition (such as personnel, financial data, architecture, and infrastructure) based on archival material. Second, this historical reconstruction of the film exhibition scene is complemented by film programming research done in local newspapers-archives from the 1930s to the 1970s, with a particular focus on the *Capitole* cinema. The films shown, the popularity, and the distribution of mostly foreign films were analyzed to reveal the distinct programming strategies of cinemas and a flux distribution hierarchy. Third, large-scale oral history research was

conducted to analyze accounts of film-going and everyday life in and around the city. As such, trying to triangulate the results of these three distinct research phases, the doctorate discusses the tensions between commerce and pillarization, cultural and social practices in their urban context, and the experience of modernity and everyday life.