

Keynote Speakers and Invited Guest

Paul Cooke, University of Leeds, UK

Paul Cooke is Professor of German Cultural Studies and Pro-Dean for Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Leeds. Prof. Cooke has published extensively on contemporary German cinema and literature, on issues of memory culture and post-unification discourses on German (cultural) identity. His recent publications include *Representing East Germany: From Colonization to Nostalgia* and an edited volume on *World Cinema's 'Dialogues' with Hollywood*. Prof Cooke is co-editor of the *New Germany in Context* book series, co-editor of *New Cinemas. Journal of Contemporary Film* and Principal Investigator in the International Networks Project *Screening Identities: Reconfiguring Identity Politics in Contemporary European Cinema* which is funded by the British Academy.



Barbara Pichler, Director Designate of Diagonale, the Austrian Film Festival in Graz



Barbara Pichler is the Director Designate of the Diagonale Festival of Austrian Film 2009. She received her MA in film studies from the British Film Institute/London University and has been involved with film since 1995 as the curator, author, and (copy) editor in the field of film education. Barbara Pichler has worked for various film festivals including the EMAF-European Media Art Festival as a member of the selection committees (2003-2004) and for the German documentary film festival Duisburger Filmwoche (2006-2007). In addition to her teaching at the University of Vienna (2006-2008), she is the co-editor of *moving landscapes. Landschaft und Film* (Synema Publikationen: Vienna, 2006) and *James Benning* (with C.Slanar, Film museum Synema Publikationen: Vienna, 2007).

Michael Schorr, Film director



Michael Schorr, film director and writer, will introduce his most recent film, *Schroeder's Wonderful World*, as part of *Kinofest*. With a degree in Film Directing, he graduated from the "Konrad Wolf" Academy of Film & Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg in 2000. His films include the documentary films *Herbsten* (1997), *Fisch Meer Blues* (1998), and *Ferner liefen* (2002). In 2003, his first feature film *Schultze Gets the Blues* had a very successful run in Germany and abroad and won numerous awards including 'Best Film Debut' at the Flaiano Film Festival (2004), the German film critics award (2005), and several prizes at the Stockholm Film Festival in 2003.