

**Code: BMI-FLMD-322E:10 for Film MA students,
Erasmus: BBN-KOM-291#1/6 for BA, BMA-MEDD-601/B for MA students**

Course title: Drawing Identities and Painting Geographies

Course convenors: Basak Ergun

Class time and place: Monday 15.30-17. 00, Múzeum krt. 6-8, room 251

Course type: Seminar

Course content: This course aims to provide some theoretical understanding of how and why both as individuals and states we need to have enemies, friends and allies. With an interdisciplinary approach, from psychoanalysis to political psychology, from geography to culture and media studies, we will try to examine how enemies has been created, constructed, what kind of emotions tried to be evoked with these images. While creating violent, barbaric, irrational identities are being created, the same processes were also used for creating imaginary geographies. These geographies were not only violent geographies, as the image/stereotype of the other is not only based on hostility. While positive imaginary geographies like romanticized Paris or Rome can be created, negative imaginary geographies like diseased and barbaric African, violent Latin American geographies, or highly sexualized South Asian geographies can be created either by literature, tourism, politics and especially by media. Many other kinds of geographies with convenient identities belonging to these places can be counted. Sometimes some geographies could also mean both fear and desire, like construction of oriental countries with 19th century women traveler writes, which can be characterized by dessert passions while at the same time their male colleagues were creating infantile, backward, in-humanist, irrational and violent places on the same geographies. What about Geographies of care, responsibility, empathy, justice and morality? How does creation of imaginary geographies and identities affect how much we care or not care, whom do we care or not to care for? Mass slave suicides proposed by some Abolitionists in US was a way to freedom? How can we read the World Bank's Chief Economist, Lawrence Summers' proposal to a colleague in an internal memo: "Just between you and me, shouldn't the World Bank be encouraging more migration of the dirty industries to the Less Developed Countries (LDCs)?" And how can we explain the drowning of thousands of refugees at Mediterranean or Australian Coast while trying to escape from threat of death or violence?

Requirements:

Indicative Reading:
