



Waseda Institute for Advanced Study (WIAS)

Waseda University

WAJDA AFTER IMAGES

Intermedial Art, Political Aesthetics, and the Afterlives of Cinema

An International Symposium on the Centenary of Andrzej Wajda's Birth (Nov 21-22)

Overview

Marking the centenary of Andrzej Wajda's birth, this international symposium invites participants to reconsider Wajda not only as one of the defining figures of Polish and European cinema, but also as an intermedial artist whose work unfolds across film, literature, theatre, visual art, political history, and archival practice.

Wajda's films are deeply rooted in literary adaptation, painterly composition, scenographic imagination, and the transformation of historical experience into visual and performative forms. His artistic language negotiates the relationships between word and image, stage and screen, documentary and fiction, as well as individual memory and collective history. Rather than approaching Wajda solely within the boundaries of film history, the symposium situates his work within broader discussions of artistic form, political aesthetics, cultural memory, and the circulation of images across media.

The title ***Wajda After Images*** refers both to the enduring power of Wajda's images beyond their original historical moment and to the afterlives of cinema itself—its transformations across theatre, visual art, exhibition practice, television, digital media, video games, and contemporary forms of memory culture.

The symposium welcomes papers that address Wajda's work directly, as well as proposals that use his cinema as a point of departure for broader reflections on Polish, European, Japanese, and global visual culture. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary approaches that examine cinema in relation to other media, institutions, archives, and political histories.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Submission deadline: 23 August 2026

Notification of acceptance: Late August / Early September 2026

To apply, please send submissions to:

pachciarek [at] aoni.waseda.jp *Please replace [at] with @.

Subject line: *Wajda After Images CFP* – [Surname]

Please submit the following materials:

- paper title
- abstract (250–300 words)
- short biographical note (100–150 words)
- institutional affiliation (if applicable)
- contact email
- optional indication of the thematic area to which your paper relates

Presentations should be **20 minutes**, followed by discussion.

Possible Topics

The symposium welcomes proposals including, but not limited to, the following topics:

Andrzej Wajda in Polish, Japanese, and Global Contexts

- Andrzej Wajda and the history of Polish, European, and world cinema
- Wajda's reception in Japan and East Asia
- Wajda and Japanese cinema, theatre, literature, and visual culture
- Wajda, Akira Kurosawa, and postwar cinematic modernisms
- Polish cinema in Japan / Japanese cinema in Poland
- Slavic studies, visual culture, and transnational circulation of film
- European, Japanese, and global film cultures in comparative perspective

Literature, Theatre, and Intermediality

- Literary adaptation and the transformation of text into image
- Cinema, theatre, performance, and scenography
- Wajda's theatrical productions and their relationship to his films
- Intermediality and postwar artistic modernism
- Cinema as translation between media, cultures, and histories

Political Aesthetics, Memory, and History

- Political aesthetics and historical representation
- War, trauma, resistance, ruins, and the ethics of representation
- Cultural memory and postwar visual culture
- Cinema and the politics of collective remembrance

Visual Arts, Archives, and Exhibition Practices

- Painting, composition, and visual art in Wajda's films
- Film posters, exhibition design, and the material culture of cinema
- Wajda's archives: scripts, preparatory drawings, manuscripts, photographs, production materials, and correspondence
- Museums, archives, festivals, and cultural institutions in shaping the memory of cinema

Contemporary Perspectives

- The afterlives of cinema in television, digital media, video games, and contemporary visual culture
- Spatiality, dramaturgy, and cinematic imagination
- Wajda beyond film studies: art history, theatre studies, media studies, museum studies, game studies, cultural history, and related approaches

The symposium welcomes proposals from scholars working in film studies, theatre studies, literature, art history, media studies, Slavic studies, Japanese studies, cultural studies, history, museum studies, game studies, and related disciplines.

We also welcome proposals from curators, archivists, artists, translators, filmmakers, and other cultural practitioners whose work engages with Andrzej Wajda's legacy or with broader questions of cinema, intermediality, visual culture, cultural memory, and political aesthetics.

Archival / Exhibition Component

Alongside the academic programme, the symposium will feature a modest display of selected archival materials related to Andrzej Wajda's work. The display will highlight the material and intermedial dimensions of his artistic practice.

Venue

Okuma Auditorium – Main Auditorium, Waseda Campus, Waseda University (In-person)

Prospected Audience

Students, Graduate students, Faculty members, Research members

Language

English

Organizer

Waseda Institute for Advanced Studies (WIAS)

CO-Organizer

Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology (Kraków)

Polish Institute in Tokyo (Embassy of the Republic of Poland)

Support

National Film Archive of Japan (NFAJ)

The Japanese Society for Slavic and East European Studies (JSSLL)

Media Partner

Culture.pl

Funding

This symposium forms part of the international project *Wajda After Images*, commemorating the centenary of Andrzej Wajda's birth. The project includes an international symposium and an accompanying exhibition in Japan.

The project is co-financed by the **Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland** under the *Inspiring Culture 2026–2027* programme.