

Cinematics – a bibliography

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Introduction

This is work in progress and will be added to from time to time and updated on my website, <http://www.mikemetrics.com/>. The original idea was to list cinematic publications with a strong statistical component on the website, but the number is steadily increasing so it is going to be more efficient to make this available as a pdf file. I've written in more detail about the statistical aspects of cinematics elsewhere, *Notes on Cinematic Data Analysis*, in what is effectively a book that can be accessed from my website and academia.edu page for free, so I will keep this introduction fairly short.

The *Cinematics* website established by Yuri Tsivian in 2005 is important for many reasons. It draws some of its inspiration from the work of Barry Salt, particularly his 1974 paper listed below. This was well ahead of its time. A lot of the ideas it embodies couldn't easily be implemented with the computing power available at the time. This has now changed and *Cinematics* is one manifestation of this. Among other things it eases the problem of collecting data and interrogating it. There are issues about accuracy – the source material, frame-accurate measurement, the actual analysis of the data, and so on. The issues are being addressed.

One thing that interests me is the nature of publication. This is changing rapidly. What you might call 'conventional' journals that deal with film studies are frightened to publish anything involving quantitative ideas that the editors judge might scare, or be incomprehensible to, their readers. This is an understandable, if frustrating, point of view if you want to get ideas of the quantitative analysis of 'filmic analysis' into the public domain. I've experienced this and know I am not alone. A lot of what's listed below, for the reasons I've outlined above, is on the web rather than in journals. Apart from the people name-checked above there is an interesting body of work by Nick Redfern, and James Cutting and his colleagues. This will be obvious from the Bibliography. The various people involved do not necessarily agree with each other's ideas (myself included) and there is a certain amount of what you might call 'combative' debate about this, a lot of which can be viewed on the *Cinematics* website.

In some ways this 'internal dissent' about quantitative methodology distracts from the possibility that the quantitative study of film can add to your knowledge about film. It does; it's just one way of looking at film; and how you rate it depends on what your interests are. The study of montage in early (the 1910s) film has benefited from quantitative analysis

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through the work of Yuri Tsivian and colleagues. If you want to see what some of this is, there are video presentations of talks at a conference sponsored by the Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago².

So I think this is all interesting; it is what academic study is about; you do things, sit back, and see what happens. The present bibliography is intended as a resource. A few references that are not strictly ‘cinematic’ but involve the analysis of ‘filmic’ data are included.

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