



Events

LUCIEN CASTAING-TAYLOR Sensory Ethnography Lab Harvard University

Thursday, February 4, 2016
4-6:30 pm
Mary Gates Hall 389

***Leviathan* Film Screening and Discussion with Co-director**

Leviathan is a groundbreaking, immersive portrait of the contemporary commercial fishing industry filmed off the coast of New Bedford, Massachusetts. At one time the whaling capital of the world as well as Melville's inspiration for *Moby-Dick*, it is today the country's largest fishing port with more than 500 ships sailing from its harbor every month. *Leviathan* follows a hulking groundfish trawler into murky black waters on a weeks-long expedition. Instead of romanticizing the labor or partaking in the longstanding tradition of turning fisherfolk into images, filmmakers Lucien Castaing-Taylor (*Sweetgrass*) and V er ena Paravel (*Foreign Parts*) present a vivid, almost-kaleidoscopic representation of the work, the sea, the machinery and the players, both human and marine. Employing an arsenal of cameras passed freely from film crew to ship crew that swoop from below sea level to astonishing bird's-eye views, the film is unlike anything that has been seen before.

A panel discussion will follow the screening, featuring co-director **Lucien Castaing-Taylor** and UW faculty **Eric Ames** (Comparative Literature, Cinema & Media) and **Danny Hoffman** (Anthropology).

Director of the Sensory Ethnography Lab at Harvard University, **Lucien Castaing-Taylor** is an anthropologist whose work seeks to conjugate art's negative capability with an ethnographic attachment to the flux of life. His work is in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art and the British Museum, has been exhibited at the Tate, Centre Pompidou, MoMA, Whitney Museum of American Art, Berlin Kunsthalle, PS1, Whitechapel Gallery, and London's Institute of Contemporary Arts, and has formed the subject of symposia at the Smithsonian Institution, the Mus ee du quai Branly, and the British Museum. His films and videos have screened at Berlin, Locarno, New York, Toronto and other film festivals. Recent awards include the Alpert Award in the Arts (2013) and, with V er ena Paravel, the True Vision Award (2013).

Part of *Ethnographic Aesthetics: Image, Sound, Word*, a speaker series sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities that features innovators whose work in poetry, sound, and film expands the practice of ethnography through humanistic, sensory forms of knowing.