“After having been successively a fairground attraction, an amusement analogous to boulevard theatre, or a means of preserving the images of an era, [cinema] is gradually becoming a language. By language, I mean a form in which and by which an artist can express his thoughts, however abstract they may be, or translate his obsessions exactly as he does in the contemporary essay or novel. That is why I would like to call this new age of cinema the age of camera-stylo (camera-pen).”

In 1947, Alexandre Astruc used this metaphor of the pen to expand conceptions of cinematic practice and film aesthetics. The Camera-Stylo conference proposes to explore conceptions of and intersections between the pen and the camera, word and image, page and screen – the literary and the cinematic. We aim to open up a lively debate on any and all ways in which literary and cinematic imagining informs or plays out within each medium.

Please send abstracts of 300 words and a brief biographical note to peter.marks@sydney.edu.au by 6 February 2015. Notification will be forthcoming by 20 February. Individual paper presentations should be 20 minutes in length to maximise time at the end of the paper (or panel) for questions and discussion. All panels will be equipped with a projector and computer facilities for Powerpoint presentations and film/clip screenings.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONFIRMED:

Professor Timothy Corrigan
University of Pennsylvania

Associate Professor Keith Beattie
Deakin University

Dr Lara Fiegel
Kings College London

Associate Professor Steven Maras
University of Sydney

We welcome proposals on topics that may include but are not limited to:

Screen/writing
Screenplay as literary/cinematic text
Poetics of screenwriting
Intersections of literary and cinematic modernism
Documentary as literary and cinematic process
Early cinema and writing
Literary and film theory
Genre in writing and cinema
Literary/cinematic poetics
Adaptation
The essay film
Biopic and life writing
Authorship/auteurism
The writer in film
Film montage as writing