

## **Carol Siegel**

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“Recovering Connections between Sex Radicalism and the Left: Fighting Fascism on Film in 1968 and Today”

Drawing from my book-in-progress, “Sex Radical Cinema,” this talk will center on two films, Lindsay Anderson’s 1968 *If . . .* and Chus Gutierrez’s 2005 *El Calentito*, but will also include some discussion of Robert Redford’s 2007 film *Lions for Lambs*. The purpose of this comparison is to establish some criteria for distinguishing between liberal and radical cinematic resistances to authoritarianism. Too often today all positions left of ultra-conservatism are collapsed into liberalism. However, as was understood by the cultural revolutionaries of 1968 and as Michel Foucault devoted much of his work to pointing out, liberalism frequently works to shore up the status quo through a regime of disciplinarity. This seems nowhere more evident than in current representations of sexuality in popular film. As diverse expressions of sexuality that depart from normative marital domesticity are increasingly pathologized in the U.S., the theory behind the mid to late sixties radical determination to “make love not war” has been lost in our country. Yet, interestingly, many foreign films like Gutierrez’s keep very much alive the late sixties’ Marxist Neo-Freudian concept of an opposition between Eros and Thanatos. Gilles Deleuze’s works on cinema and on capitalism will provide a framework for analyzing the rhetoric of resistance in these films.