



FRIDAY,

APRIL 7, 2023

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Languages, and
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CERES Brown Bag Talk:

Screams and Silence:

Maternal Acoustics in East German Cinema

Elizabeth Mittman (she/hers)

Assoc. Professor of German Studies & Study Abroad Coordinator
Dept. of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures ([LiLaC](#))



This talk explores the complexities of the highly politicized East German discourse on socialist motherhood through an analysis of the soundscapes in East German and post-unification cinema.

Across a range of popular, even iconic films, mother figures play a crucial role in the articulation of diverging socialist identities, oriented alternately toward nurturing the state family, protecting the private family, or fulfilling transgressive desires. Their constantly modulating voices offer a roadmap to social values under contestation at key points in both early and late East German society, as well as in the wake of that state's demise.

