Movies in the teaching of International Relations: the Brazilian experience

Cristine Koehler Zanella

Doctor in Political Sciences (UGent/Belgium) and Doctor in International Strategic Studies (UFRGS/Brazil)
Lecturer in International Relations at Federal University of ABC (São Bernardo do Campo/São Paulo, Brazil)

Abstract: The more intense use of movies as a pedagogical tool poses many questions about using movies in IR classes. Through a survey research method, I investigated how movies have been used as an IR pedagogical tool in Brazil. Questions such as when films are used and why, the judgment on the successfulness of performed activities, and the difficulties in the use of films were mapped. Data collected confirmed that films are widely employed as an educational resource in IR classes in Brazil. It also revealed that the main purposes of using movies are to provide additional information on a specific event and to critically access the political narrative of the film. Finally, it revealed that lecturers recognize the limits of using films to teach IR, revealing particular challenges for teaching IR in the Global South.

Keywords: pedagogy, movies, Brazil, International Relations

This research was presented at International Studies Association Hong Kong Conference, panel Innovations in Teaching and Learning, June 17, 2017, from 11:00 - 12:45, Faculty Function Room, University of Hong Kong.

* The full text presented is a work in progress. In case of interest, please contact me for a copy of the full text at criskz.sma@gmail.com