Films can move us, make us think, change our beliefs, and compel us to act. But in the first place, a film is something that we look at and listen to; whatever other experiences a film can create for us are founded on the fact that a film is something that we perceive.

So how do filmmakers exploit our perceptual, cognitive, and emotional capacities to create compelling movies? And how does our experience of movies in turn shape our minds? These are the questions addressed by the interdisciplinary research programme known as cognitive film theory. Curious? Come along tonight to find out more!

For any attendees requiring a meal pass, RSVP to Jessie Schwab jschwab@princeton.edu by October 10, 2016.

Murray Smith is Professor of Film at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, co-director of the Aesthetics Research Centre at Kent, and President of the Society for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image. He has published widely on film, art, and aesthetics. His publications include Engaging Characters: Fiction, Emotion, and the Cinema (Clarendon, 1995); Trainspotting (BFI, 2002); and Film, Art, and the Third Culture (Oxford, 2017).