

Center for Advanced Study
**CAS Associates and Fellows
Noonhour
Presentations**

Bring your lunch for a noonhour exploration of some of the best scholarship produced at the University of Illinois.

12:00 Noon

Music Room
Levis Faculty Center, Suite 200
919 West Illinois Street, Urbana
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Free and open to the public.
cas.illinois.edu

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Julie Turnock

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Associate 2017–18*

**The Empire of Effects:
Industrial Light and Magic and
the Rendering of Reality**



This presentation traces Industrial Light and Magic's trajectory to becoming the most dominant effects company through the 1980s, setting the realism aesthetic

for effects work, and then making sure it stayed that way for the next several decades. Through an industrial and aesthetic history of ILM, as well as primary source documents, interviews with practitioners and discourse analysis, Professor Turnock argues that ILM's dominant style of effects realism in blockbuster aesthetics does not simply follow a transhistorical notion of what Stephen Prince calls "perceptual realism." Instead, she denaturalizes ILM's specific, historically grounded, style of effects realism to be one they developed and then promoted through cultural, economic, industrial and technological power.