Child Performance in
Estiu 1993/Summer 1993
(Carla Simón, 2017)

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Carla Simón’s 2017 film Estiu 1993/ Summer 1993 is a largely autobiographical account of the Summer that Simón went to live with her aunt following the death of her mother. Central to the film is the performance of Laia Artigas in the role of Frida, the film’s child protagonist. In this paper, I want to explore the ways firstly that the film presents an ethically charged portrayal of the child on film, in terms of both representation and labour. Secondly, I will explore the ways that, through performance, the film also presents an ethics in its representation of the child’s dead mother, a mother who has died of an AIDS-related illness. Finally, through an awareness of the cinephilic references in the film, I will examine how performance can also usher in wider national-historical questions about how we might reflect on and, possibly, move on from events in recent Spanish history.

Thursday, Oct. 3 | 12pm | Music Room, Rochambeau House
This event is sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies at Brown University