

Engaging with Film as a Tool for Philosophical Debate

It is said that “Good art makes you feel so much, you can’t help but think”. That is certainly the case with movies. Increasing numbers of people are most open to thinking about big spiritual and moral questions after they have seen a movie. So, how do we help such people to think clearly about such philosophical questions? And how can this provide an appropriate missional tool? In this workshop Nick Pollard, the writer and presenter of PollardonFilm.com will use examples from contemporary movies to help us to develop the knowledge and skills required to help ordinary people to benefit from thinking through the movies.

Nick Pollard is a former research psychologist turned author, lecturer and social entrepreneur. Nick has published a number of influential books, including *Teenagers: Why Do They Do That?* and *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*. He has a very extensive experience as a speaker at university missions and school conferences in the UK.

1. Rationale for engaging with movies in this way

- a. The need

- b. The opportunity

- c. The challenges

2. Some examples

- a. *Race to Witch Mountain*: scepticism and truth
 - i. The movie

 - ii. Some philosophy

 - iii. Some Bible

- b. *Creation*: Reasons to believe
 - i. The movie

ii. Some philosophy

iii. Some Bible

c. *Hancock*: the escape from nihilism

i. The movie

ii. Some philosophy

iii. Some Bible

3. **The practical application**

a. Understanding the audience

b. Making the most of the opportunities

c. Taking people further