

## **Unusual Life: Loving Gestures and Sacredness in *Ida* (2013)**

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The Polish film *Ida* (2013) tells the story of a novice called Ida (Agata Trzebuchowska) in 1962. The community's Mother Superior tells her to meet her only living relative, an aunt who she has never seen, before she takes her vows. Consequently, she leaves the monastic setting for the first time in her life. This paper analyzes the portrayal of her gestures inside and outside the convent. In monastic life, gestures are sparse and ritualized. They mold daily activities into habits. In secular life, gestures carry social meaning. Ida has not learned the conventions of human interaction shared by the people she meets. The film contrasts the two lives when she is travelling the country, learning about her family history, and having a relationship with a young musician. When she asks the man how their future together would be, he simply answers: "The usual. Life." In contrast, her tentative life is most unusual and it has the power to reveal the world as an unknown place. Her gestures become ways of experiencing (and searching for) some conviction about the intertwinement between love and the sacred in her existence.

### **Bio**

Sérgio Dias Branco is Assistant Professor of Film Studies at the University of Coimbra. He holds a PhD in Film Studies from the University of Kent and is a researcher at CEIS20 - Centre of 20th Century Interdisciplinary Studies as well as an invited member of "The Magnifying Class" at the University of Oxford. Sérgio is the President of AIM - Association of Moving Image Researchers. He co-edits *Cinema: Journal of Philosophy and the Moving Image* and *Conversations: The Journal of Cavellian Studies* and is the author of *Por Dentro das Imagens: Obras de Cinema, Ideias do Cinema* (Documenta, 2016). Currently, he is pursuing a MA by Research in Theology at Durham University on Christianity and film.