

This symposium explores how the issues of **borders, identities and solidarities** have been tackled by and through film festivals. As a repetitive practice happening in regular intervals and at the same place, **film festivals** operate as 'places of memory' of a particular kind (Nora, 1984 [1997]). As such, they provide an institutional framework for the **cultural memories** they preserve and produce through their programmes. By the default of cultural memory creation (Assmann, 1995), their influence becomes long-term and wide encompassing, moving far beyond from their actual time and place. In addition, thanks to the engagement of diverse festival actors (journalists, critics, industry representatives, politicians, etc.) the narratives that they create reach diverse categories of society, not limited to those present at the screening. The influence created in such a way becomes especially important in the times of **political and military conflicts** and **social turbulences**, when not only various kinds of liberties, but also people's lives, can be threatened. With this in mind, this symposium brings together scholars working on **diverse aspects of film festival studies** to discuss interrelations between film festivals and the questions of borders, identities and solidarities. In the current context of political and social upheavals, and social movements for civil rights, they will explore the capacity of film festivals to operate not simply as spaces for cinematic representation related to borders and identities, but how they have (or may become) vehicles for forging solidarities, past, present and future.

Organising committee

Dunja Jelenkovic (Chair)

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Scientific committee

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International Symposium *Film Festivals: Borders, Identities, Solidarities*

November 4–6, 2024

Sala Marino Berengo, Dorsoduro
3246 & Tesa 1, Cultural Flow Zone,
Zattere 1392, Venice

Organised by

Dunja Jelenkovic within the Marie Curie project CBA TRIESTE ("The Cinematic Battle for the Adriatic: Films, Frontiers and the Trieste Crisis")

DAY 1

Monday, November 4

sala Marino Berengo

9h30 – 11h00

PANEL 1

Contested Borderlands and Disputed Territories

Violeta Kovacsics, lecturer and programmer, University Pompeu Fabra: *From one identity to another: a case study of the Sitges Film Festival and the relationship between genre and national identity*

Sabine Haenni, associate professor, Cornell University: *Whose Mediterranean? On Social Models Provided by Film Festivals*

Loreto Garcia Saiz, PhD student, and Tayri Paz García Medina, PhD student, University Carlos III of Madrid: *Decolonial Practices through Cinematic Exhibition: A Case Study of Fisahara and Solar Cinema in the Sahrawi Refugee Camps in Tindouf (Algeria)*

Chair: **Natacha Seweryn**

11h30 – 13h00

PANEL 2

Mnemonic Strategies of Film Festivals: The Case of Post-Yugoslav Space

Jasmina Šepetavc, programmer & researcher, University of Ljubljana: *'The Other Queers': Queering memories, histories and theory through LGBTQ+ film festivals*

Natalija Majsova, associate professor, University of Ljubljana: *Screening memories, implicating subjects: Festival memory politics in the post-Yugoslav space*

Boris Ružić, assistant professor, University of Rijeka: *Positioning a Documentary Film Festival in Croatia*

Chair: **Dunja Jelenkovic**

14h30 – 16h00

PANEL 3

Feminist Perspectives

Ylenia Olibet, post-doctoral fellow, McGill University: *Reimagining the Mediterranean: Curating Solidarity at the Rencontres Films Femmes Méditerranée*

Adriana Morante, PhD Student, University of Bari Aldo Moro: *'[...] in History as in Nature, memory is unearthing, ceremony becomes vital nourishment': the Sorrento Feminist Film Festival*

Natacha Seweryn, PhD student, University Paris 8: *The #MeToo movement, the 50/50 collective in France, and how it has reconfigured film festival selection committees*

Chair: **Ger Zielinski**

16.30 – 18.00

KEYNOTE TALK

Aida Vallejo, associate professor, University of the Basque Country: *The spatial dimension of film festivals: culture, politics and identity in the Basque context*

DAY 2

Tuesday, November 5

sala Marino Berengo

9h30 – 11h00

PANEL 4

Cold War Perspectives

Presentation of the research project CBA TRIESTE, and launch of its Digital Archive (Dunja Jelenkovic), followed by:

Maria Paz Peirano, MSCA post-doctoral fellow, University of Antwerp - Universidad de Chile: *From national promotion to international solidarity: 'Testimonianze cinematografiche sul Cile' at the Venice's Biennale of 1974*

Severyan Dyakonov, post-doctoral fellow, Carleton University: *The International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films in Socialist Bulgaria, 1965-1991*

Chair: **Stefano Pisu**

11h30 – 13h30

PANEL 5

Solidarities and Sensible Programming

Ezra Winton, assistant professor, American University in Bulgaria: *The Film Festival and Social Transformation: Exploring Hot Docs and Solidarity over 25 Years*

Rachel Johnson, lecturer, University of Leeds: *Transtopias, borderlands and solidarity in two co-curated festivals: Cinema of Commoning and Women Creators of the Future*

Yoojin Kim, PhD student, Kingston University London: *'Tanning with Movie Light': A Ray of Hope following the May 18 Gwangju Democratization Movement*

Fatma Edemen, PhD student, Jagiellonian University in Kraków: *Curating Statelessness: Kurds on the European Screen*

Chair: **Miriam de Rosa**

Tesa 1, CULTURAL FLOW ZONE

15.00 – 16.30

Focus: **Film Festivals, Archives and Participatory Filmmaking in the North of Ireland** (roundtable discussion)

Laura Aguiar, Cinematic Arts Lecturer, Ulster University, and Director of the Rathmullan Film Festival.

Lynsey Gillespie, Deputy Head of Public Services - Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Bronagh McAtasney, Access & Outreach Officer, Heritage & Education - Northern Ireland Screen.

17.00 – 19.00

KEYNOTE PERFORMANCE LECTURE

David Archibald and **Núria Araùna Baró** (Ragged Cinema), *Film Festivals and Feminist Solidarities: Cuba, Catalunya, Scotland*

DAY 3

Wednesday, November 6

sala Marino Berengo

10h00 – 12h00

PANEL 6

Crossborder Perspectives and Minority Grassroots

Emilie Cheyroux, associate professor, University of Toulouse - Champollion Institute: *The Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF) and the film industry: strategies to create opportunities and enhance solidarity between Latinos*

Giorgio Bottini, post-doctoral fellow, Urbino University Carlo Bo: *The Villerupt Italian Film Festival. A Workers' Community's Identity across the Border*

Chiara Lopriore, PhD student, University of Bari Aldo Moro: *Promoting Cultural Solidarity Through Film Festivals: The FESCAAL Case Study*

Luisa Pèrcopo, lecturer, Cardiff University, artistic and managing director of the Italian Film Festival Cardiff: *The Italian Film Festival Cardiff as a Transcultural Chronotope of Counter-Memory*

Chair: **Giulio Tosi**

12h30 – 13h30

FINAL PLENARY DEBATE

Moderated by **Dunja Jelenkovic**