
Symposium & Screenings

Paranational Cinema

Trajectories and Methods

October 16–17, 2025

University of Zurich

Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich

Kino Xenix

Kanzleistrasse 52, 8004 Zurich

Symposium & Screenings

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University of Zurich, K02-F-152
Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich

09:30	Welcome and coffee
09:45	Introduction
10:00–11:15	Panel 1: Trajectories Chair: Volker Pantenburg “Our camera was not supposed to film”: Approaching Heynowski and Scheumann’s “Chile Cycle” Ignacio Albornoz (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen) Rural Articulations of the Nation: Ateyyat Al Abnoudy and Transnational Public Television Cecilia Valenti (Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz)
11:30–12:45	Panel II: (Un)certain Tendencies Chair: Nikola Radic A Passion for the New: Global Film History, New Waves and Film Scholarship Tiago de Luca (University of Warwick, Coventry) Balkan Cinema as Paranational Cinema? Ana Grgic (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca)
	Lunch Break
14:15–15:30	Panel III: Constellations Out of Place Chair: Philip Widmann From Zahlé to Serra Talhada: A Dual Look at Nomadic Bandits’ Filmmaker Benjamin Abrahão Botto Anaïs Farine (Beirut) & Lúcia Ramos Monteiro (Universidade Federal Fluminense, São Paulo) Dislocating Location: Thinking the Paranational with Hussein Shariffe Erica Carter (King’s College, London) & Eiman Hussein (London)
15:45–16:45	Shifting Ground: Panel Discussion on Questions of Methods Convened by Brigitta Kuster (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Screening Program

Kino Xenix
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18:00	Transversal Memories Mémoire 14 Ahmed Bouanani, MA 1971, 24’, French with English subtitles (digital file, b/w) Miraculous Accident Assaf Gruber, DE/AT 2025, 30’, Polish and French with English subtitles (DCP, color & b/w) Guests: Assaf Gruber and Oussama Benayad
20:00	Dispersed Heritage Une nation est née Paulin Soumanou Vieyra, SN 1961, 25’, French with English subtitles (digital file, b/w) Rhythm of Life Ateyyat Al Abnoudi, EG/FRG 1988, 58’, Arabic with English subtitles (digital file, color) Introduced by Cecilia Valenti and Nikolaus Perneczky

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University of Zurich & Kino Xenix

What constitutes a Paranational Cinema? The prefix “para-” suggests incongruence or divergence, a cinema besides the nation: filmmaking and related practices that transcend, subvert, precede or succeed national frameworks conditioning the production, circulation, and preservation of films. As a hypothetical term, Paranational Cinema serves to amplify forms of affinity and alliance whose trajectories challenge notions of historical and geographic coherence without necessarily corresponding to inter- and transnational networks.

This two-day event forms part of the research project *Paranational Cinema – Legacies and Practices* at the University of Zurich. The presentations and film screenings examine cinematic objects and practices from diverse communities and geographies. The contributions explore innovative methodologies for understanding specific configurations in relation to the nation as an entity that shapes both the material realities of cinema and the production of knowledge about it.

October 17, 2025

Kino Xenix
Kanzleistrasse 52, 8004 Zurich

09:30	Welcome and coffee
	Morning sessions chaired by Brigitta Kuster
10:00–10:45	A Cinema of Broken Frames: Fragmenting Na(rra)tion in Mostapha Derkaoui’s About Some Meaningless Events (1974) Oussama Benayad (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
11:00–12:00	Alors Jean Chamoun, LB 1973, 20’, French with English subtitles (digital file, b/w) Introduced by Anaïs Farine, followed by a conversation
12:15–13:00	Paulin S. Vieyra’s Archival Futures: On Africa’s Displaced Film Heritage and the Politics of North-South Cooperation Nikolaus Perneczky (Queen Mary University of London)
	Lunch Break
	Afternoon sessions chaired by Erica Carter
14:00–14:45	Why Do We Organize Film Festivals? Contradicting Ambitions During the Second Afro-Asian Film Festival in Cairo Ahmed Refaat (Cairo)
15:15–16:00	Re-Cinefications: On Approaches to Decentering the Legacy of Soviet Film Olexii Kuchanskyi (eikones/Universität Basel) in conversation with Clea Wanner (Universität Basel)
16:00	Concluding Remarks

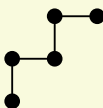
Contributions by

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Nikolaus Perneczky
Lúcia Ramos Monteiro
Ahmed Refaat
Cecilia Valenti
Clea Wanner

The symposium is organized by Volker Pantenburg, Philip Widmann, and Nikola Radic as part of the research project *Paranational Cinema – Legacies and Practices*, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.



University of Zurich



Swiss National Science Foundation

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