



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN  
STIFTUNG** Für die Freiheit.

**initiative  
integration**  
der Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit

## **Reflections of Migration and cultural diversity in Films and Theatre**

### **Can Cinema and Theatre tell the sideline stories?**

**30th June – 2nd July 2023 || Berlin**

In recent decades, the question of migration, diversity and multicultural society has opened up a lot of debates and has become a major social issue. During this seminar, we will be exploring the role of Films and Theatre in addressing these concerns and, showing how society constructs its relationship with 'Otherness' through the portrayal of its diversity. Films and Theatre can provide a platform for ethical representation which can break the pre-existing stereotypes and misrepresentation of diversity/migrants leading to better integration and representation of migrants in society and initiating a social dialogue on questions of cultural diversity, attitude towards migration, identity politics, discrimination, racism, etc.

The seminar will address questions such as: How do the films and theatre portray migration and cultural diversity, and how does it open the debate on these issues, in an increasingly globalized world? How can the film and theatre industry of Europe/Germany provide a space for equal inclusion and representation of BIPOC? How is the often-overlooked question of racial segregation and discrimination within the artistic domain reflected on the stage and screen? Can films and theatre be the forebearers of change in the power dynamics of the social narrative, where the centre is not overpowering the marginalized? Do cinema and theatre create a space for narrating the stories of the 'other' with diverse and complex backgrounds? What role do cultural institutions and policies play in better inclusion and plurality of voices in an industry dominated by a mainstream narrative?

With the wide and popular reach of films and theatre, it is important to scrutinize the complexities of this cultural industry involved in dealing with this issue. This seminar intends to investigate what has been done by these institutions in having a plurality of voices and how successful or unsuccessful they have been in creating a shared space for diverse identities and affecting social change.

We look forward to having you!

The seminar will be held in English.



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**PROGRAM:**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

starting 14.00h **Individual Arrival & Check-in in Hotel**

JH Berlin – International, Kluckstraße 3, 10785 Berlin

16:30h **Welcome & Introduction Round**

In the lobby of JH Berlin

We will move to the seminar room from here for the rest of the evening. The seminar will take place for the rest of the days at Wilhelmstraße 118, Berlin

18:00h **Transcultural, integrative, and racist poetics of audiovisual images**

Presentation by Dr. Hauke Lehmann (Freie University, Berlin)

19:15h **Discussion / Q&A Round**

19:45h **Dinner**

End of the day



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## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**8:45h Meeting at the Reception/Hotel Lobby**

**9:30h Exiled Lives on the Stage**

Presentation by Dr. Pieter Verstraete (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Freie Universität Berlin & Assistant Professor at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

**10:45h Discussion/ Q&A Round**

**11:00h Short Break**

**11:30h Talk by Maissa Lihedheb**

Film Director and Founder of BIPOC Film Society

**12:30h Discussion/ Q&A Round**

**12:45 Lunch Break**

**14:00h Attending Film Screening [Animated Shorts] followed by a talk with Anatola Araba (online)**

**Anatola Araba** is a filmmaker, journalist, and futurist from and based in New York City. Anatola collaborated on and was featured in a series of photographs that were exhibited at the MoMA in NYC and later acquired into the museum's permanent collection. Her films and multimedia creations have been showcased across the globe including at Lincoln Center, Art Basel, and SXSW.

**Location-** *Sinema Transtopia, Wedding Berlin*



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**16:30h I Step on Air: Performing Plural Voices and Decolonial Storytelling for a Diverse Society**

A lecture performance by Oxana Chi (independent filmmaker and performing artist) & Dr Layla Zami (Freie University, Berlin)

18:00h Discussion/ Q&A Round

19:00h Dinner

End of the Day

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023**

09:15h **Meeting at the Reception/Hotel Lobby**

09:30h **Short Presentation**

Snehal Anni (Coordinator of AK Integration)

11:00h **Visit to Deutsche Kinemathek Museum (Museum für Film und Fernsehen)**

14:00h **Evaluation & Feedback**

15:00h **End of Seminar**

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