**BFI WORKSHOP 1 on** **AFRICAN FILM FESTIVALS AS SPACE OF ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE**

Contemporary film festivals in Africa and the diaspora perform multiple roles: as a space of discovery for cinephiles and general audiences; as an alternative distribution network for independent and experimental cinema; as a platform for activism and political engagement; and as a shared space of encounter and dialogue between industry practitioners, creatives, researchers, and educators. Drawing on a range of case studies – from FESPACO, one of Africa’s oldest and arguably the continent’s most politically engaged film festival, to FIDEC, a Moroccan international film school festival that promotes transnational talent development, and initiatives such as the BEYOND NOLLYWOOD programme, which has engaged festival audiences across the globe - the workshop will consider how the ‘theorising’ of African cinema(s) in an academic context is deeply informed by and indebted to African film festivals as a key site of intellectual, cultural and political exchange. Through this focus on festivals, the workshop will address broader questions of decolonising film studies, the cultural politics of international co-production and the very notion of what African cinema(s) might be and how they may be understood, debated and (re-)viewed by local and global audiences.

The workshop will be led by Nadia Denton (impact producer, curator, author and founder of the BEYOND NOLLYWOOD programme) and Will Higbee (Professor of Film Studies at the University of Exeter and editor of *De-Westernizing Film Studies*).

This will be an interactive session with video clips and the opportunity for attendees to engage and debate. You may wish to consult the following resources in advance of the workshop:

‘Manifesto of Ouagadougou’, *Black Camera*, Volume 12, Number 1, Fall 2020, pp. 479-483

[we can provide a PDF of this article if necessary]

UNESCO Report [https://en.unesco.org/creativity/publications/african-film-industry-trends-challenges](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.unesco.org%2Fcreativity%2Fpublications%2Fafrican-film-industry-trends-challenges&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.cooper%40kcl.ac.uk%7C0c7b1e296d624f2df94608db40236f06%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C638174293195260013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pmkdY5ZCoqQlSojwdS5fjUwPlxSyd5HLt1JQvmXw1pk%3D&reserved=0)

*EFM insights podcast* (2021), ‘Global North - Global South: Narrative Sovereignty (part I and part II)’

[https://efm-industry-insights.podigee.io/11-global-north-global-south-narrative-sovereignty-1](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fefm-industry-insights.podigee.io%2F11-global-north-global-south-narrative-sovereignty-1&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.cooper%40kcl.ac.uk%7C0c7b1e296d624f2df94608db40236f06%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C638174293195260013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=60%2BpiprPaFyEBp0onCvWNX6exjQfYuPib%2FAggDCdf2I%3D&reserved=0)

*Black Film Bulletin* [https://www.bfi.org.uk/articles/category/black-film-bulletin](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bfi.org.uk%2Farticles%2Fcategory%2Fblack-film-bulletin&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.cooper%40kcl.ac.uk%7C0c7b1e296d624f2df94608db40236f06%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C638174293195416252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=p5cl77tnC%2B2jAQQduxWsOI8OaPbORrBdB7P%2BnghyRxw%3D&reserved=0)

Introduction to 'The Nigerian Filmmaker's Guide to Success: BEYOND NOLLYWOOD [https://web.tresorit.com/l/unevZ#HURs70nLb8qtkHOkHTvUCw](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.tresorit.com%2Fl%2FunevZ%23HURs70nLb8qtkHOkHTvUCw&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.cooper%40kcl.ac.uk%7C0c7b1e296d624f2df94608db40236f06%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C638174293195416252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zwnwPMxGGQRtAtHsAIc0%2BIO8cJyB8hN7jL4e2Y59nPU%3D&reserved=0)

Nadir Bouhmpoch (2019), ‘Amussu: experiment for a cinema from below’, *openDemocracy*,

[https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/amussu-experiment-cinema-below/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opendemocracy.net%2Fen%2Fnorth-africa-west-asia%2Famussu-experiment-cinema-below%2F&data=05%7C01%7Csarah.cooper%40kcl.ac.uk%7C0c7b1e296d624f2df94608db40236f06%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C638174293195416252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T0stqUPbBb0YYSoNU60vz7X7T9mpLVSfcKidYeff80o%3D&reserved=0)