**BFI WORKSHOP 3 on FILM SCHOOLS AS TRANSNATIONAL CONTACT ZONES**

This final session coincides with the opening of the BFI’s major retrospective of Egypt’s Youssef Chahine. In homage to Chahine, we open the seminar with his 1982 *An Egyptian Story*. The film’s cineaste protagonist, Yehia, is under anaesthetic in a London clinic. Yehia returns in a dream to the cosmopolitan education that led him to filmmaking. Beginning in a Catholic primary school, the dream moves to an elite academy reminiscent of Chahine’s alma mater, Victoria College. References to Hollywood recall Chahine’s early training at Pasadena Playhouse. *An Egyptian Story*thus sets the scene for our consideration of educational sites as contact zones where film theory meets cinematic practice, leaving its imprint in the aesthetic styles and values of filmmakers travelling between the African continent and other global sites. Film schools began as prestige objects for state-sponsored film cultures in Moscow, Rome, and Paris. The film school movement gathered momentum during the Cold War, as nations vied for global influence within the divided cultures of state socialism and capitalist democracy. Focusing on this period, we track exemplary filmmaker biographies around Cold War circuits. Featuring alongside Chahine are other North-East African cineastes including Sudan’s Ibrahim Shaddad, Hussein Shariffe, and Suliman Elnour; and West African exemplars including Flora Gomes, Sana na N’Hada, and Ousmane Sembène.

The workshop will be led by Erica Carter (Professor of German and Film at King’s College London).

This will be an interactive session with film clips and the opportunity for attendees to engage and debate.

Further reading suggestions:

Marie Pierre-Bouthier (2022): ‘A founding transnational experience for the pioneers of Moroccan national cinema: studying in Łódź film school in the 1960s–70s,’ *The Journal of North African Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/13629387.2022.2036978.

Mette Hjort, ed., *The Education of the Filmmaker in Europe, Australasia and Asia* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Duncan Petrie and Rod Stoneman, *Educating Filmmakers. Past, Present and Future* (Bristol: Intellect Books, 2014).