Journal of Film Festival Studies
screenfest
Film Festivali Araştırmaları Dergisi

5th SYMPOSIUM ON FILM FESTIVALS

"Method in Film Festival Studies"

26–27 NOVEMBER 2026

Anadolu University, Faculty of Communication Sciences

Şener Şen Hall
Yunus Emre Campus, Eskişehir

23rd ESKİŞEHİR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



PROGRAM

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER

10:00 **Opening Remarks**

10:30-11:45 **SESSION I**

Moderator: Ufuk Küçükcan (Anadolu University)

Murat Akser (Ulster University)
How Should We Study AI Film Festivals? A Multi-Layered Research Design for Algorithmic Cinema in the Age of Generative AI

Ferhat Zengin · Bahadır Kapır
(Istanbul Gelişim University – Marmara University)
Methodological Tensions in AI-Themed Film Festivals: Selection and Evaluation in the Context of the Türkiye International AI Film Festival (TAIFF)

Sercan Kule (Kahramanmaraş İstiklal University)
A Reflective Thematic Analysis of the International Animation Category Finalists at the 2nd Türkiye International AI Film Festival

Burak Evrem Turp (Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University)
Film Festivals' Institutional Approaches to Generative Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis

11:45-11:55 BREAK

11:55-13:10 **SESSION II**

Moderator: Mutlu Binark (Hacettepe University)

Uğur Baloğlu (Istanbul Gelişim University)
Film Festivals as Arenas of Ideological Struggle: Berlinale 2026 and Emin Alper

Aslı Tekgül (Dokuz Eylül University)
What Do the Numbers Reveal at the İzmir International Women Directors Festival? The Visibility of Women in Cinema: A Decade of Data

Gökhan Evecen (Akdeniz University)
An Analysis of Feedback on Türkiye-Based Film Festivals on FilmFreeway

Berfin Tutucu (Marmara University)
KORK International Horror Film Festival: The Festivalization and Institutionalization Process of Horror Cinema in Turkey

13:10-14:30 LUNCH

26 NOVEMBER — AFTERNOON

14:30-15:30 **SESSION III**

Moderator: Ece Vitrinel (Galatasaray University)

Giorgio Ceccarelli (Ca' Foscari University of Venice · Jean Moulin University Lyon 3)
Between Ephemerality and Infrastructural Continuity: Reframing Methodologies for the Study of Chinese Film Festivals

Alberto Fabris (University of Udine)
Public Value and Cultural Accountability: A Hybrid Impact Assessment Framework for Film Festivals in Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)

Jay Hubert (University of Colorado Colorado Springs)
From Park City to the Front Range: A Practitioner-Embedded Inquiry into Sundance's Relocation and Regional Film Festival Ecosystems

15:30-15:40 BREAK

15:40-16:50 **PANEL I**

Methodology in Movie Audience Research: The Case of the 124K371 TUBITAK Project

Hakan Erkılıç (Mersin University) · Senem Duruel Erkılıç (Mersin University) · Hasan Akbulut (Istanbul University) · Melis Behlil (Kadir Has University) · Serhat Serter (Anadolu University) · Neşe Öztemir · Sena Öndün Sivas (Istanbul Bilgi University) · Erhan Türküm (Marmara University) · Bilal Çakay (Van Yüzüncü Yıl University)

16:50-17:00 BREAK

17:00 · KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Festival Ecosystem from Above: Global Dynamics, Interconnections and Networks

Aida Vallejo
University of the Basque Country EHU · Spain

Aida Vallejo is an Associate Professor at the University of the Basque Country (Spain) and holds a PhD in Film History from the Autonomous University of Madrid. Her research focuses on film festivals and creative documentary. In her research on cultural industries, Vallejo adopts an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together methodologies and theoretical frameworks from Media Studies, Anthropology, Film History and Digital Humanities. She has co-edited the books *Documentary Film Festivals Vol. 1* and *Vol. 2: Film Festivals and Anthropology*, and has published numerous articles in international academic journals. She is the principal investigator of two research projects focusing on Basque film festivals: IkERFESTS (Basque Festival Mapping) and "Festival Encounters" (a socio-historical analysis of San Sebastian Film Festival venues). Vallejo is a board member of NECS and has worked as a researcher at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), the University of St Andrews and the University of Glasgow (Scotland), FAMU (Prague), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), the Central European University (Budapest) and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). She has served on the documentary co-production forum of the Zinebi and San Sebastian International Film Festivals, as well as on the selection committees of the Cine Invisible Human Rights Film Festival (Bilbao). She has served on juries at various international film festivals, delivered seminars and lectures, and coordinated the Spanish delegation of the European University Film Award.

https://www.eufa.org/

Senem Duruel Erkılıç
Moderator · Mersin University

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FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER

10:00-11:15 SESSION IV

Moderator: Zeynep Çetin Erus (Marmara University)

Özgür İpek (Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University)
Documentary Film Festivals as a Thematic Field of Cinema: Practices of Production, Distribution, and Audience Engagement

Mehmet Emre Gül (Akdeniz University)
Akdeniz Film Production Festival as a Production-Based Festival Model

Ahmet Batuhan Toğaç · Zeynep Çetin Erus
(Istanbul Okan University · Marmara University)
TRT's International Co-Productions in Film Industries

Emre Ahmet Seçmen
(Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University)
Genre, National, and Production-Based Hybridization in Cinema: The "New Visions" Category at the Istanbul Film Festival and the Transformation of the Category Structure

11:15-11:25 BREAK

11:25-12:40 SESSION V

Moderator: Aydın Çam (Çukurova University)

Atifet Keleşoğlu (Anadolu University)
"Count Us In!" The "Harvest of the Harvest" in the Museum, in the Context of Festival Films

İhsan Koluaçık (Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University)
An Ideological Perspective on Alternative Film Production and Competition Culture: The Hisar Short Film Competition

Mehmet Kızıklı · Elif Aslan (Hacettepe University · Bilkent University)
Negotiating Cultural Autonomy: Discourse and Legitimation at the Istanbul and Antalya Film Festivals

S. Yankı Özcan (Başkent University)
Digital Source Criticism in Film Festival Research: A Case Study of the Venice Film Festival's Institutional Digital Sources

12:40-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-14:50 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Audiences, and the Making of Film Communities
At the Edges of the Circuit: Small Film Festivals, Audiences, and the Making of Film Communities María Paz Peirano Olate (University of Chile, Chile)

María Paz Peirano Olate
University of Chile · Chile

María Paz Peirano Olate is a Professor of Film and Cultural Studies at the University of Chile and holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Kent, United Kingdom. Her research focuses on small film festivals, international film circulation, and the formation of audience communities and cinema cultures in South America. She is co-author of the books *Film Festivals and Anthropology*, *Ingmar Bergman Out of Focus: Film Cultures and International Reception*, and *La vieja escuela: el rol del Cine Arte Normandie en la formación de audiencias*. As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Antwerp, she conducted research on alternative exhibition networks and cultural diplomacy in Chile. She is the principal investigator of the projects "Film Festivals: Experiences in the Formation and Expansion of Chile's Cultural Field" and "Chilean Cinema Audiences: Cinema Culture, Cinephilia and Education" (Fondecyt 1211594). Through collaborations with film festivals in Colombia, Peru and Chile, she provides consultancy on audience research, mediation strategies and festival development, building bridges between academic research and professional practice.

Moderator: Melis Behlil · Kadir Has University

14:50-15:00 BREAK

15:00-16:15 SESSION VI

Moderator: Aysun Akıncı (Anadolu University)

Akın Tunç
Independent Researcher
The Opposing Roles of the Pula and Sarajevo Film Festivals in Processes of Identity Construction and Canon Formation

Onur Aytaç
(Mersin University)
Micro-Local Governments and Cinema in Istanbul: The Cases of Esenler and Çatalca FF

Emrah Cevher
(Hatay Mustafa Kemal University)
The Urban Resonance of a Festival: An Autoethnographic Perspective on the 13th Antakya International Film Festival

Murad Özdemir
(Galatasaray University)
Turkish Documentary Festivalscape: A Sensory Ethnography of Affective Labor

16:15-16:25 BREAK

16:25-17:40 PANEL II

Methodology in Film Festival Studies:The Case of the 121K234 TÜBİTAK Project
Senem Duruel Erkılıç (Mersin University) · Emine Uçar İlbuğa · Ali Karadoğan (Munzur University) · Serhat Serter (Anadolu University) · Aydın Çam (Çukurova University)

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Thank You

The Symposium Organizing Committee would like to thank Anadolu University and the Eskişehir International Film Festival for their collaboration and support.

DATE AND VENUE

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