



The film series adapts the transnational and praxeological approach of ›temporal communities‹ to reframe the history of German film by looking at a wide array of transnational filmmaking practices in Germany since the 1960s.

In following different trajectories of transnational filmmaking in Germany and assembling films created within transnational networks, the series seeks to shed light on the important work performed by archival initiatives, cultural projects and a growing number of individual curators, exhibitors, researchers and artists over the last years. They all have restored, studied and made available films that have been unseen or underappreciated in Germany, often because they fell through existing national categories.

The series consists of four evenings that each highlight a different dimension of or route to transnational filmmaking in Germany, such as filmmakers in exile, Turkish productions in Germany or international students at film schools. Each evening will combine the screening of one or more films with an introductory presentation or a talk following the screenings.

Sinema Transtopia  
Lindower Str. 20/22, Haus C  
13347 Berlin  
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A cooperation between the Cluster of Excellence  
2020 *Temporal Communities: Doing Literature  
in A Global Perspective* at Freie Universität Berlin  
and *SİNEMA TRANSTOPIA* by bi'bak

Still from Oyoyo © Film University Babelsberg

# Transnational Filmmaking in Germany

## Practices, Routes, Archives

Film Series  
April–July 2025

Organised by the EXC 2020 *Temporal Communities:  
Doing Literature in a Global Perspective*  
in collaboration with SİNEMA TRANSTOPIA

Curated by Till Kadritzke and Carlos Kong

Part 1: 23 April 2025, 8pm

# Turkish Productions in Germany



Film still from *Almanya Acı Vatan* © Gulsah Films

*Almanya Acı Vatan* (Germany, Bitter Homeland)  
Şerif Gören, Turkey 1979, 90 min.  
Turkish with English subtitles

Introduction by Prof. Dr. Ömer Alkin  
(Hochschule Niederrhein)

**Almanya Acı Vatan** (Germany, Bitter Homeland) follows the lives of Güldane (Hülya Koçyiğit) and Mahmut (Rahmi Saltuk), who enter into a sham marriage to get Mahmut to Berlin. Combining comedy and melodrama with social criticism, the film shows an intimate look into the lives of Turkish factory workers in West Germany from the perspective of workers themselves. Directed by renowned filmmaker Şerif Gören (1944–2024), the film was produced and distributed by the Turkish film industry, an historic example of a foreign film production shot in West Germany.

The screening is also part of the film series *Postmigrantische Audiovisionen* at Hochschule Niederrhein.

Part 2: 29 May 2025, 8pm

# Film Schools in East and West Germany



Film still from *Oyoyo* © Film University Babelsberg

*Cultural Nationalism*. Skip Norman, Federal Republic of Germany 1969, 11 min. English

*On Africa*. Skip Norman, Federal Republic of Germany 1970, 35 min. German with English subtitles

*Oyoyo*. Chetna Vora, German Democratic Republic 1980, 47 min. German with English Subtitles

Introduction by Dr. Ying Sze Pek (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

The second event in the series examines the transnational film practices of students at film schools in former West and East Germany, focusing on two exemplary filmmakers: Skip Norman's **Cultural Nationalism** (1969) combines a speech by Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, with a shot of a snowy field in West Berlin, thematising racial and class disenfranchisement. In **On Africa** (1970), Norman juxtaposes tracking shots of Berlin with photographs and economic data on West Africa, producing an essay film that explores the continent's underdevelopment, conquest, and decolonisation. Shot in a student residence in Karlshorst, Berlin, Chetna Vora's **Oyoyo** (1980) features the lived experiences of foreign students in the former German Democratic Republic, highlighting intimate moments of friendship and transnational solidarity.

Part 3: 26 June 2025, 8pm

# Filmmakers in German Exile



Sohrab Shahid Saless © Bert Schmidt

*Anton P. Čechov – Ein Leben*  
Sohrab Shahid Saless, Federal Republic of Germany 1981, 95 min. German with English subtitles

Introduction by Dr. Behrang Samsami, author of *Die langen Ferien des Sohrab Shahid Saless*

Iran-born filmmaker Sohrab Shahid Saless was one of the most prolific directors who lived and worked in exile in Germany. Settling in West Germany in the early 1970s, he made 13 feature films before leaving the country again in the 1990s. The television production **Anton P. Čechov – Ein Leben** is an homage to and an interrogation of Anton Chekhov, one of Saless' main artistic inspirations. He puts original sources such as letters and photographs in dialogue with Chekhov's literary works and paints a picture of the novelist and his historical context. The film is an extraordinary example of transnationalism in filmmaking, shot not only in Germany but also in the Soviet Union and Italy.

Part 4: 2 July 2025, 8pm

# Legacies of Transnational Filmmaking



Still from *Spielerinnen* © Pong Film

*Spielerinnen* (Game Changers)  
Aysun Bademsoy, Germany 2024, 85 min.  
German and Turkish with English subtitles

Followed by a talk with Aysun Bademsoy

While most of the films screened and discussed within the series so far have been marginalized at the time of their production, recent years have seen a resurgent interest in the history of migration to Germany. In this last evening, we showcase the work of Aysun Bademsoy, a filmmaker who has observed and documented the complex lived realities across different generations of Turkish-German subjects. In her latest film **Spielerinnen**, she revisits the protagonists of two films she made in the 1990s, the members of the first Turkish-German women's football team. While Bademsoy continues to document their lives, the film is particularly interested in the relation to their daughters, asking how a new generation of Turkish-German women negotiates questions of identity and the realities of structural racism in Germany.