

AS 211.722 Spring 2021
Global Feminist Filmmaking: a Theory in Practice Seminar

Fri 1:30-3:00pm

Professor [Bernadette Wegenstein](#)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3706430266>

Bernadette Wegenstein's Personal Meeting Room

Office hours by individual appointment: berna@jhu.edu

This seminar examines recent emerging narrative and documentary global feminist filmmakers, applying feminist theory, intersectional theory, cinéma vérité, theory of nonviolence, and intersubjectivity to understand their work. Each week, we will examine one filmmaker’s approach to their own personal practice of feminist filmmaking, and either interview them during our class or screen a pre-recorded zoom interview. In this seminar students will go beyond a theoretical feminist film criticism to one introduced into a lived and living feminist film practice. The filmmakers in question are Marialy Rivas (Chile), Elisabeth Scharang (Austria), Habiba Djahine (Algeria), Patricia Ortega (Venezuela and Argentina), Wanuri Kahiu (Kenya), Naomi Kawase (Japan), Sandra Kogut (Brazil), Kirsten Johnson (USA), TT the Artist (USA), Patricia Ramos (Cuba), Susana de Sousa Dias (Portugal), Claudia Llosa (Peru), Alina Marazzi (Italy), Rosine Mfetko Mbakam (Cameroun and Belgium).

Syllabus

Week	Friday Class	Weekly Assignment
1: Jan 29 Introduction	<p>Introduction of class and main threads; introduction of <i>Radical Equality and Global Feminist Filmmaking Anthology</i>, ed. Bernadette Wegenstein & Lauren Mushro, Vernon Press 2021.</p> <p>Screening of clips from Peter Wintonik’s <i>Cinéma vérité, Defining the Moment</i> (1999).</p> <p>Discussion of corpus of films, approaches to each film; distinction between narrative and documentary.</p> <p>Why does practice matter to theory?</p> <p>What is a feminist film?</p>	<p>Read Marialy Rivas’ interview transcript; find write ups/ public articles on your own about Rivas’ work.</p> <p>“The minds of children,” in <i>The Body Keeps the Score, Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma</i>, Bessel Van der Kolk (2015)</p> <p>Viewings: Princesita, Marialy Rivas https://vimeo.com/318688689 Pass: P442r32453dffTA_</p> <p>Joven y Alocada, Marialy Rivas https://vimeo.com/319551934 Pass: Fabula20_19_D3io34_JVN</p> <p>Blokes, Marialy Rivas https://vimeo.com/347389053 Pass: Fabula2019new005632</p>

<p>2: Feb 5 Female Sexuality, LGBTQ culture, and Sex Cults</p>	<p>Marialy Rivas, Chile:</p> <p>Discussion of Rivas' style, visual approaches, treatment of rape and female sexuality, LGBTQ culture</p> <p>Guest respondent: Lauren Mushro, phd candidate Modern Languages and Literatures and The Center for Advanced Media Study</p>	<p>Read Habiba Djahine's and Kahina Zina Benghouba's interview transcripts.</p> <p>Additional Readings: 1, Une poetique feministe de l'Algerie en lutte — interview with Habiba Djahine 2, Livret de L'atelier de Creation des films documentaires</p> <p>Viewings: Lettre a ma soeur, Habiba Djahine https://vimeo.com/412334446 Pass: LettreAMaSoeur_FR-en_20_200228</p> <p>Atelier Films Habiba Dhahine:</p> <p>Wiam Lawres Bnett el Djebliya La fille de la montagnarde Lien : https://vimeo.com/337940854 Mot de passe : lamontagnarde_2019</p> <p>Sonia Kessi Nnuba (Nouva, A tour de rôle) Lien : https://vimeo.com/331529444 Mot de masse: din kan</p> <p>Kamila Ould Larbi Selon elle, Fi Rayha Lien : https://vimeo.com/332816075 Mot de passe: kamila_ol</p> <p>Kahina Zina E'sitar, le rideau Lien : https://vimeo.com/337959192 Mot de passe: lerideau_2019</p> <p>Saadia Gacem Piment rouge Felfel Larmar Lien : https://vimeo.com/331310709 Mot de passe: TimimounBorj20172019</p> <p>Leila Saadna Dis-moi Djamilia, si je meurs, comment feras-tu ? جميلة قوليلي لو كان نموت كيفاه تديري ؟ Lien : https://vimeo.com/335152937 Mot de passe: djedda_19</p>
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<p>3: Feb 12 Femicide, and Women's Sexual Rights</p>	<p>Habiba Djahine and the Algerian filmmaker Atelier de Creation des Films Documentaires, Algerie</p> <p>Discussion of the cinema verite style, and the poetry of the essay film Lettre a ma soeur; compare to some of the more ethnographic films from the Atelier film collective</p> <p>Guest respondent: Todd Shepard, Arthur O. Lovejoy professor of History, former Director of the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality; expert on Algerian history</p>	<p>Read Naomi Kawase's interview transcript;</p> <p>Additional Readings: Feminist Subversion of Womanhood in Naomi Kawase's <i>Still the Water</i> (2014) and Kim Soyoung's <i>Sound of Nomad</i> (2016), Rie Karatsu</p> <p>Home Birth, World Cinema: Kawase Naomi's films in circulation, 2020, Joel Neville Anderson</p> <p>Viewings: Naomi Kawase's films: https://www.japanesefilmfest.org/all/general/4767/</p> <p>Her most recent films: Sweet Bean – amazon prime Radiance – amazon Prime</p> <p>Mourning Forest and Still the Water – will be on OneDrive</p> <p>Her first feature film which is a hybrid doc-narrative:</p> <p>Suzaku (1997) – Trailer: http://www.kawasenaomi.com/kumie/en/works/2015/03/post_24.html Full film with English Subtitles: http://dramacool.bz/watch/moe-no-suzaku/episode-1.html</p> <p>Her earlier docs: Tarachime (1996) – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WttTrCXEEGY Embracing (1992) – Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgfP2LnUxu8</p> <p>Naomi Kawase Ted talk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhOtrGDDRRo</p> <p>TRUE MOTHERS https://vimeo.com/461264693 Password: TMeifkakt249</p>
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<p>4: Feb 19 Nature, Motherhood and Birthing — from Domestic Ethnography to Fiction</p>	<p>Naomi Kawase, Japan</p> <p>Discussion of Kawase as a female filmmaker in the traditional male filmic landscape of Japan, and her trajectory as documentarian to one of Japan’s most prominent feature film director, and a well-known auteur at the Cannes film festival</p> <p>Guest respondent: Chris Taylor, phd candidate Comparative Literature and Thought</p>	<p>Read: Soyoung Kim’s Interview transcript;</p> <p>Viewings: Sound of Nomad: Koryo Arirang https://vimeo.com/170105631 (pw: cinemadal) (English subtitles)</p> <p>Goodbye My Love, North Korea https://vimeo.com/249352563 (pw: cinemadal2018) (English subtitles) https://vimeo.com/350259758 (pw: gbmlnkry_dal_2019) (Russian subtitles)</p> <p>Soyoung KIM (2017 Documentary 89min</p> <p>Eight North Korean at Moscow film school defected to the Soviet Union denouncing the great leader KIM, Il-sung in 1958. The aftermaths as artists working in Central Asia for 50 years more.</p> <p>Soyoung KIM (Jeong KIM) 2016 Documentary 88min</p> <p>Unveils a complex and intriguing story of Korean Diaspora and Koryo Theater in Russia and Central Asia.</p> <p>Heart of Snow, Heart of Blood https://vimeo.com/107789420 (pw: snow2014) (English subtitles)</p> <p>Soyoung KIM (Jeong KIM) 2014 Documentary 98min</p> <p>Following 150 years of Russian speaking Korean diaspora (Koryo), “Heart of Snow” poignantly captures their story of survival and revival in central Asia and their return to South Korea. *** These are shorts also set in the Far East Russia and Central Asia.</p> <p>SFdrome https://vimeo.com/275560031 (pw: jusejuk2018)</p>
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<p>5: Feb 25 (Thur) 1-3pm Nomadism, Ecclecticism, and Found Footage</p>	<p>Soyoung Kim, South Korea</p> <p>Discussion of Soyoung's own poetic style and analysis of questions of nomadism, and a non-fixed identity and the question of belonging pertaining to the Koryo people</p>	<p>Read: Sandra Kogut's interview transcript</p> <p>Viewings: Mutum, Sandra Kogut https://vimeo.com/124625298 Pass: mutum</p> <p>Campo Grande com legenda, Sandra Kogut https://vimeo.com/374724838 psw: Campo_Grande17923</p> <p>Tres Verões, Sandra Kogut https://vimeo.com/343319342 psw: 3VER_ING</p> <p>Additional Viewings: La nana, Sebastian Lelio, Chile 2010 (OneDrive) Housemaids, Gabriel Mascaro, 2010 La camarista, Lila Aviles Mexico 2018 (OneDrive)</p> <p>Additional Readings:</p> <p>Class, Confinement, and Servitude in Latin American Film, Marina Bedran</p> <p>Amefrica Ladina: Black Female Filmmakers in the Southern Cone, Lúcia Monteiro & Izabel de Fátima Cruz Melo</p>
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<p>6: Mar 5 Class and Race in the Southern Cone</p>	<p>Sandra Kogut, Brazil</p> <p>Discussion of Class and Race in the Southern Cone</p> <p>Respondent: Marina Bedran, professor of Lusitane Literatures, Modern Languages and Literatures</p> <p>Additional respondent: Henrique Landulfo, producer who has worked with Sandra Kogut in Brazil</p>	<p>Read: Livia Bloom (distributor) and Rosine Mftego Mbakam, Interview transcripts</p> <p>Viewing: The two faces of Bamileke woman (76 min): http://docuseek2.com.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/if-bamil</p> <p>Chez Jolie Coiffure (70 min): http://docuseek2.com.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/if-chez</p> <p>Voici le lien du cinétract de la Wexner Center, mon court-métrage est le troisième.</p> <p>https://wexarts.org/film-video/cinetracts-20</p> <p>DELPHINE’S PRAYERS Private preview: https://vimeo.com/475531263 Temporary password: Delphine</p>
<p>7: Mar 12 Postcolonial Cinema Verite & Talking Back</p>	<p>Rosine Mftego Mbakam, Cameroon & Belgium</p> <p>Discussion of Rosine Mbakam’s unique style of cinematic intimacy and post-colonial “talking back;” on what it means to be cinematographer and director at the same time</p>	<p>Read: Wanuri Kahiu’s Interview transcript; find write ups/ public articles on your own about Kahiu’s work.</p> <p>Viewing: Rafiki, 2018 OneDrive</p> <p>Pumzi, 2009: https://vimeo.com/46891859</p> <p>Additional Reading: <i>Jambula Tree</i> by Ugandan writer Monica Arac de Nyeko (OneDrive) Lindsey Green-Simms, article <i> Holding Space, Saving Joy: Queer Love and Critical Resilience in East Africa</i></p>

<p>8: Mar 19</p> <p>Afro-Futurism and Female Sexual Freedom</p>	<p>Wanuri Kahiu, Kenya</p> <p>Discussion of LGBTQ content and lesbian love stories in African films; Discussion of genres: who gets to invent a story?</p> <p>Discussion of other Afrobubblegum new projects by Wanuri Kahiu & Queer Film in East Africa</p> <p>Respondent: Lindsey Green-Simms, American University</p>	<p>Read: Susana de Sousa Dias and Alina Marazzi, Interview transcripts</p> <p>Viewings:</p> <p>NATUREZA MORTA (2005): link: https://vimeo.com/89415653 pass: naturezamorta_fr_guest</p> <p>48: link: https://vimeo.com/76611259 pass: 48_2020</p> <p>LUZ OBSCURA (2017): link: https://vimeo.com/188635887 pass: ObscureLight_2019</p> <p>FORDLANDIA MALAISE (2019) https://vimeo.com/344836569 Password: beija-flor_20</p> <p>LINK TUTTO PARLA DI TE- ALL ABOUT YOU SUB ENG https://vimeo.com/64837011 Psw: mircinema2013</p> <p>LINK VOGLIAMO ANCHE LE ROSE https://vimeo.com/164965473 psw: Mir_2016</p> <p>LINK UN'ORA SOLA TI VORREI https://vimeo.com/141336510 pwd. liseli</p> <p>LINK CONFINI https://vimeo.com/119429015 password: giuro</p> <p>Additional Reading: Found Footage and Mixed Media in the Work of Alina Marazzi and Susana de Sousa Dias, Laura di Bianco</p>
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<p>9: Apr 2 Mixed Media and Domestic Ethnographies</p>	<p>Sousana de Souza Dias, Portugal Alina Marazzi, Italy</p> <p>Discussion of mixed media use in both filmmakers; questions of media & sustainability; the representation of death and dying; genocide</p> <p>Respondent: Laura di Bianco, professor of Italian, Modern Languages and Literatures</p>	<p>Read: Claudia Llosa transcript</p> <p>Unruly Flesh: Reimagining the Body and Non-Binary Desire in Feminist Filmic Practice, Lauren Mushro</p> <p>Viewings:</p> <p>Madeinusa, OneDrive The Milk of Sorrow, OneDrive Loxoro, OneDrive</p> <p>Aloft, https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.9ea9f787-8bb8-971e-6e43-5a5bbf48e532?autoplay=1</p> <p>Additional Viewing (optional):</p> <p>Pajaros de Verano, Colombia 2018</p>
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<p>10: Apr 9 Magic-Realism and Trans-sexualism</p>	<p>Claudia Llosa, Peru</p> <p>Discussion of magic-realism brought to the screen; notions of motherhood; feminist critique of failing and new belongings; critique of indigeneity; LGBTQ and trans studies</p> <p>Respondent: Lauren Mushro</p>	<p>Read: Patricia Ramos, Interview Transcript</p> <p>Viewing: El techo, 2018</p> <p>Additional Viewing: Sara Gómez, En la otra isla (1968) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJB19jSmA4 Sara Gómez, De cierta manera (1974): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_FaWYhtW80</p> <p>Sara Gómez, an Afro-Cuban filmmaker: https://fod-infobase-com.proxy1.library.jhu.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=110336</p> <p>Additional Readings: “Sarita and the Revolution: Race and Cuban Cinema,” Haseenah Ebrahim (2007)</p>
<p>11: Apr 16 Rooftop Feminism</p>	<p>Patricia Ramos, Cuba</p> <p>Discussion of El techo, and women’s filmmaking in Cuba</p> <p>Sara Gomez’ films</p>	<p>Read: Kirsten Johnson and TT the Artist transcriptions/ Zoom recordings</p> <p>Viewings: Cameraperson by Kirsten Johnson https://vimeo.com/187223437 pw: JanusOC</p> <p>Dick Johnson is Dead, by Kirsten Johnson, Netflix 2020</p> <p>Dark City Beneath the Beat, TT the Artist 2020 (premiering at MD Film Festival in May)</p> <p>Reading: Woman with a Movie Camera: Gender and Documentary Sustainability, Patricia White</p> <p>Against the grain: an analysis of the business model of feminist film practice, Annette Porter</p>

<p>12: Apr 23 Cinematography and the Sustainability of images</p> <p>& Black Female Power</p>	<p>Kirsten Johnson, USA TT the Artist, USA</p>	<p>Read: Interview Transcript Patricia Ortega, Elisabeth Scharang</p> <p>Viewing:</p> <p>Yo, imposible, Patricia Ortega https://vimeo.com/258612826 CODE: YiS03%18*//</p> <p>Tintenfischalarm (<i>Octopusalarm</i>), Elisabeth Scharang</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/422933936 Pass: Tintenfischalarm2006Elisabeth</p> <p>Additional Reading:</p> <p>Introduction: Global Feminist Film Practice as Radical Equality Practice, Bernadette Wegenstein & Lauren Mushro</p>
<p>13: Apr 30 Queerness and intersex on Screen (in person on the “beach”)</p>	<p>Patricia Ortega, Venezuela Elisabeth Scharang, Austria</p> <p>Discussion of intersex on screen</p> <p>Guest speaker:</p> <p>Lauren Mushro, co-editor <i>Radical Equality, Global Feminist Filmmaking</i></p>	

All readings and some of the films will be shared with students via OneDrive. Others will be available through Panopto, or vimeo. **Please do not share these vimeo links with anybody outside of our class.**

Additional Resources:

DA FILMS:
Access through berna@jhu.edu Pass: cyborg.33

Alanis Obomsawin <https://americas.dafilms.com/director/10686-alanis-obomsawin>
Native American filmmaker

ICARUSFILMS:

Three films by Madeline Anderson

INTEGRATION REPORT 1: <https://docuseek2.com/if-inte>

A TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM X: <https://docuseek2.com/if-trib>

I AM SOMEBODY: <https://docuseek2.com/if-iams>

By Aminatou Echard

JAMILIA: <https://docuseek2.com/if-lia>

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FROM JHU ON QUEER STUDIES FILMS:

[proxy.library.jhu.edu/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/p_Search.aspx?
st=adv&rd=title&cType=9](https://proxy.library.jhu.edu/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/p_Search.aspx?st=adv&rd=title&cType=9)

Children 404 (2014)

Activist Elena Klimova establishes a badly needed online forum for Russian LGBT youth to communicate.

Queercore (2017)

Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution is a 2017 English-language German documentary film directed by Yony Leyser about the social and cultural movement known as *Queercore*. The documentary focuses on the movement's diverse elements, including zine culture, music, film, and activism.

Searching Eva (2019)

Eva, 25, drifter, Berliner, pet-owner, poet, lesbian, sex worker, virgo, housewife, addict, feminist, model, declared privacy an outdated concept at the age of 14. This is the tale of a young woman growing up in the age of the internet, turning the search for oneself into a public spectacle, and challenging the definitions of what a woman should be.

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Latest Latin American Films:

- Scorched Water

- <https://jh.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=843729fd-5138-4df4-96d7-ac8a0102a5f7>
- Obscuro Barroco
 - <https://jh.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6eb29447-9f36-4ba4-994a-ac8a0102ba73>
- Your Turn
 - <https://jh.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b05c266a-18cf-44c3-9941-ac8a00fae56f>
- Line 137
 - <https://jh.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d4177a9d-fbe0-4d43-afa9-ac8a0102ba99>
- Thinking Like a Mountain
 - <https://jh.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=03c51572-39c2-41dd-b3f3-ac8a0102bac0>

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Crenshaw, Kimberlé. *Intersectionality*.

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“Explore All Films - Archive.” *National Film Board of Canada*. <https://www.nfb.ca/explore-all-films/>.

Haller, Paul. “Geschlechtsbezeichnung "divers": Alex Jürgen und die dritte Option.” *Der Standard*, 14 May 2019, <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000103096387/geschlechtsbezeichnung-divers-alex-juergen-und-die-dritte-option>.

Harris, Mark. *Pictures at a revolution*. Penguin Books, 2008.

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Kahiu, Wanuri. *Rafiki*. 2018.

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Kawase, Naomi. *Birth/Mother*. 2006.

---. *Still the Water*. 2014.

---. *Sweet Bean*. 2015.

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Kuhn, Annette. *Women’s Pictures: Feminism and Cinema*. Verso Press, 1982.

Lewis, Leo. “Naomi Kawase: the film-maker ready to shoot the Olympics,” *The Financial Times*, <https://www.ft.com/content/16d0f9fc-b17a-11ea-a4b6-31f1eedf762e>.

Mazey, Lisa V. *Cinematic Women, From Objecthood to Heroism*. Vernon Press, 2019.

Macartney-Filgate, Terence. *The Candid Eye*. CBC Television, 1958.

Martin, Gregorio. *Cineastas frente al espejo*. 2008.

Munch, Walter and Francis Coppola. *In the Blink of an Eye*. Silman-James Press, 1991.

Orner, Eva. *Chasing Asylum*. 2016.

Ortega, Patricia. *Yo, imposible*. 2018.

---. *El regreso*. 2013.

Rivas, Marialy. *Desde siempre*. 1996.

---. *Joven y alocada*. 2012.

---. *Princesita*. 2020.

Rouch, Jean. *Chronique d'un Été*. 1965.

Scharang, Elisabeth. *Jack*. 2015.

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Silverman, Kaja. *The Acoustic Mirror: The Female Voice in Psychoanalysis and Cinema*. Indiana UP, 1998.

Soloway, Jill. "The Female Gaze." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnBvppooD9I>.

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TT the Artist. *Dark City*. 2020.

"'Wild Seed': Viola Davis Develops Adaptation of Octavia Butler Novel at Amazon, Scripted by Nnedi Okorafor and Wanuri Kahiu." *Shadow and Act*, 26 Mar 2019, <https://shadowandact.com/wild-seed-viola-davis-developing-adaptation-of-octavia-butler-novel-at-amazon-scripted-by-nnedi-okorafor-and-wanuri-kahiu>.

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