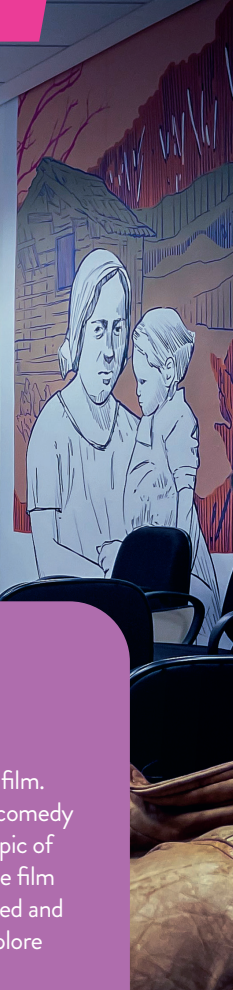


Film studies

with Professor Sheila Petty
and Dr Estrella Sendra



Talking points

Comprehension

1. What decolonial practices might a film festival researcher use?
2. As part of the research process, why is it important for film festival researchers to consider their own positionality and self-reflexivity?

Application

3. What should a decolonial African film festival look like?
4. What should a decolonial research project investigating African film festivals look like?
5. If you were organising a film festival in your community, what questions would you ask community members to understand their thoughts, opinions and aspirations?

Analysis

6. Why is it important that everyone has opportunities to 'see themselves represented onscreen'? How could decolonisation of the film industry help achieve this?

Evaluation

7. What type of career in the film industry would most interest you, and why?
8. How do you think that cinema influences society? What positive and negative examples can you think of?
9. To what extent do you think it is possible to fully decolonise society, given the depth of influence that colonisation has had? Explain your answer.

Activities

Become a filmmaker

Individually or in groups, create a short (< 5 minutes) film. You could create a stop-motion animation, act out a comedy sketch or interview people for a documentary on a topic of your choice (ensure that everyone who features in the film gives permission for their image and/or voice to be used and shared). Be creative as you produce your film and explore different filming and editing techniques.

Organise a film festival

Once everyone has created their film, organise a film festival to showcase them all to the class or a wider audience. Consider how you will arrange the programme schedule (e.g., will you organise films by genre?) and what other activities you will include (e.g., who will participate in discussion panels and what will they talk about?). How will you take care of films and participants in your festival? If awards are being given, what criteria are films to be judged on and who will vote (selected jury members or the whole audience?)?

Design a decolonised film research project

Imagine you are a researcher studying how cultural differences of a particular theme (e.g., love, ageing, war, personal identity, etc.) are represented in film. Consider how different research approaches could be used to gather information for your study. What would a traditional, colonial research approach involve? What problems would this pose for the cultures and communities being studied? What limitations would this cause for your results? In contrast, what would a decolonising research approach involve? What would this look like, based on the local context? How would you work with cultures and communities in a respectful and reciprocal way? How will this enrich the research process and results? How could you ensure that your research approach is truly decolonised?

More resources

- Learn more about Sheila and Estrella's Decolonizing Film Festival Research project: research.uregina.ca/dffr
- Find the article and activity sheet in French and Wolof at: www.futurumcareers.com/decolonising-film-festival-research
- Watch this short interview with Ousmane Sembène, often considered the father of African cinema: www.youtube.com/watch?v=foQ0q4w6z4Q
- In this TEDx talk, filmmaker Funa Maduka explains why we need to decolonise cinema: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJi-9lrQCJw