



85th KUASS / 7th KU-TUFS Seminar



Kyoto University African Studies Seminar;
Kyoto University - Tokyo University of
Foreign Studies, Research Exchange Seminar

“Ethnic film in South Africa: history, meaning and change”



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 **Conf. Room I #330**

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This paper provides an overview of ethnic films in South Africa. It traces the historical development of ‘national’ and ‘ethnic’ cinema in the context of apartheid where creative and financial control of filmmaking was controlled by the state and white individuals who acted as surrogates of the state. The paper interrogates the extent to which the ‘ethnic film’ category can be applied to film productions that represented an inauthentic African worldview, culture and tradition. It further argues that the categories of national and ethnic have shifted since the democratic elections of 1994 and in the post-1994 context, sectors of the Afrikaans-language film industry have now moved to the margins in what can be described as an ‘inward migration’. In the process, these films have become decentred and detached from the ‘national’ industry and are now arguably the new ‘ethnic’ cinema in South Africa.

Gairoonisa Paleker (PhD) is a historian based at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Her research interest in social and cultural history has been focused on film, apartheid propaganda, African audiences and Blaxploitation films in South Africa on which she has published in journals such as the Journal of Southern African Studies, African Historical Review and the Journal of African Cultural Studies. She is currently a Visiting Professor at the African Studies Centre, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo.



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