

## Symposium Festival Studies

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### Lindiwe Dovey



Originally from South Africa, Dr Lindiwe Dovey is Senior Lecturer in African Film and Chair of the Centre for Film Studies at SOAS, University of London. She is also the co-founder and former director and curator of two of the UK's major African film festivals – Film Africa in London ([www.filmafrica.org.uk](http://www.filmafrica.org.uk)) and the Cambridge African Film Festival ([www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.org.uk)). She has published widely on cinema, African film, and film festivals, and her most recent book – *Curating Africa in the Age of Film Festivals* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) – draws together her work experiences and research of the past fifteen years. Cameron Bailey, the Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival, has described it as an “essential read”. Lindiwe also writes about film and festivals for a broader public (for example, *The Guardian*), and has been invited to be on festival juries and panels in different parts of Africa and Europe. She received her BA Honors from Harvard University in Film Production and Theory (VES) and her PhD from the University of Cambridge. She has been the recipient of numerous prizes, for example, a Philip Leverhulme Prize and a Choice Award for outstanding scholarship, and the SOAS Director's Teaching Prize.

### **Keynote: African Film Festivals and African Film at International Film Festivals: Challenges and Opportunities**

Recently, there has been a proliferation of international film festivals across the African continent, and also a proliferation of African film festivals outside of the continent. At the same time, many of these festivals are quite fragile entities that are under-resourced and that rely on much voluntary labour. Indeed, many festivals disappear as quickly as they appear. This talk will explore the fascinating history of some of these festivals, their present situation and predicaments, and what is needed to support African filmmaking in the future.

#### **A talk about the curators' view**

#### **What Is 'Curation'? The Reflections of a Film Festival Founder, Director, and Curator**