

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION,
CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM

.....
SECRÉTARIAT GENERAL

.....
BURKINABE FILM AND AUDIO-VISUAL
AGENCY

.....
PAN-AFRICAN FILM AND TV FESTIVAL OF OUAGADOUGOU (FESPACO)

BURKINA FASO

.....
La Patrie ou la Mort, nous Vaincrons



CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE 30TH
EDITION OF FESPACO
THEME
“AFRICAN CINEMA AND ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT “

August 2026

The 30th Edition of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) is due from 20 March to 27 March 2027. Just as the last three editions, the upcoming edition is taking place in a context of resilience accepted in an exceptional way by festival stakeholders. The festival is taking place indeed in a context of multifaceted challenges both at national and international levels. Issues of sovereignty, identity and self-determination are more than ever at the heart of the tensions tearing the world apart. Burkina Faso, the land of African cinema, is on the path to an unprecedented assertion of its sovereignty alongside the other countries of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

As in its early days in Africa, the Seventh Art still remains the preferred platform for the manifestation of African identities and the reflection of fast changing societies. African cinema is at the heart of the representation of socio-economic, political and ideological upheavals of human societies. African cinema does not only provide the screen, it is also a proactive source of proposals and a platform for questioning.

Under the theme **“African Cinema and Endogenous Development”**, the 30th Edition of FESPACO invites us to reflect the current state of affairs in African societies and to reflect on the future of the African continent. The international Colloquium of FESPACO 2027 will be an appropriate venue for in-depth discussions between researchers and professionals, practitioners and theory experts on the endogenous nature of Africa’s cinema and on its contribution to the advent of a development model in line with the values and aspirations of African people.

Africa’s cinema no doubt is a fast-growing industry today. However, it still faces major challenges across all its segments, while its development potential remains untapped. Yet this cinematography can play a crucial role in the dissemination of local cultures, in raising awareness of the problems of our societies and open up innovative avenues for qualitative social change. The colloquium offers an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing Africa’s cinema in the current socio-economic and geopolitical context. The colloquium discussions could be structured around the following four panels:

Panel 1: *How do we set up a film industry that reflects African realities, taking account of contemporary challenges and local creativity?*

Papers under this panel could explore the conditions for setting up an African film industry through the principles, modes of creation and management of the African film environment.

Panel 2: *How do we address the problems of financing, piracy, distribution of film works and contribute to the economic growth of the continent?*

Papers in this panel could discuss the questions of financing, distribution and protection of African film works through endogenous strategies for the management of an African film industry.

Panel 3: *How do we promote African films to its own audiences?*

Papers for this panel should lead to a strategy to conquer the African film market.

Panel 4: *What strategies are needed to improve the technical quality of films and ensure their international distribution?*

Papers under this panel should lead to the proposal of endogenous filmmaking channels and strategies for the international distribution of African film productions.

Conditions for participation

The colloquium is open to professionals, researchers and teachers-researchers in the field of cinema and audio-visual, Humanities, Economics and Law, etc.

Practical modalities for submission

Papers (in French or English, title, summary of 250 to 300 words maximum, keywords, full name and address, home institution of author if applicable) are expected until 1st December 2026 at: colloque@fespaco.bf

N.B.: Round-trip ticket, accommodation, catering and transport within the city of Ouagadougou shall be borne by the participant.

Main dates

Colloquium dates: **22 to 23 March 2027**

Deadline for receipt of papers: **1st December 2026**

Notification of acceptance of papers: **15 December 2026**

Deadline for receipt of full papers: **1st March 2027**

Colloquium Coordinator

Alex Moussa SAWADOGO, Director General, Burkinabe Film and Audio-visual Agency (ABCA)

Scientific Director

Valentine PALM/SANOU, Lecturer, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)

Scientific Committee

- Pr Aboubakar SANOGO, University of Carleton (USA)
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- Pr Isaac BAZIÉ, University of Montreal (Canada)
- Pr Jacques NANÉMA, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Jean Célestin KI, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Jean Bernard OUÉDRAOGO, College of the Holy Cross (USA)
- Pr Joseph PARÉ, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Justin T. OUORO, Joseph KI-ZERBO University J (Burkina Faso)
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- Pr Mamadou Lamine OUÉDRAOGO, Norbert ZONGO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Salaka SANOU, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Ute FENDLER, University of Bayreuth (Allemagne)
- Pr Valérie ROUAMBA/OUÉDRAOGO, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Pr Yves DAKOUO, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Dr Ignace SANGARÉ, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Dr Issiaka TIENDRÉBÉOGO, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Dr Jacob Yarassoula YARABATIOULA, Joseph KI-ZERBO University (Burkina Faso)
- Dr Mahamadou Hassane CISSÉ, Nazi BONI University (Burkina Faso)