5th Global Science Film Festival
BERN EDITION
28–29 Oct 2023
Kino REX Bern
SUNDAY, OCT 29, 2023

Kino REX Bern

14:30 THE SEEDS OF VANDANA SHIVA
Documentary, IN, US, AU, CH, 2021
81 min
English with German subtitles

17:00 SHORT FILMS
70 min
sev. languages with English subtitles

19:00 CINEMA SABAYA
Drama, Israel/Belgium, 2021
92 min
Hebrew/Arabic with English subtitles

Festival Party
21:00 at REX with apéro and dance

Festival Party
22:00 at REX with apéro and dance
Greetings from the University of Bern

The University of Bern is actively looking for ways to build bridges between the scientific and non-scientific community. The Global Science Film Festival is a wonderful opportunity to tell stories about science and to communicate the mechanisms of scientific work. Through the visual approach, we can raise awareness of scientific issues among a wide audience.

The festival has evolved over the past few years to show how people, institutions, and communities can connect by watching and discussing films. The festival’s side events, such as the Film Marathon and workshops, offer young researchers the opportunity to meet, discuss, and network with filmmakers, thereby exploring the possibilities of presenting their scientific work through visual media.

Scientists have been creating new knowledge for centuries. While in the early days of sciences, knowledge exchange was restricted to bilateral correspondence and letters, we now have great opportunities to share new discoveries not only with other scientists, but, thanks to digital and especially social media, with the rest of society as well. Film, with its active sequence of images and sound effects, represents an excellent tool for approaching non-specialists in an appealing and understandable manner.

For this reason, the Faculty of Science of the University of Bern is happy to support the Global Science Film Festival as a contemporary way to share our knowledge with the public. Its stimulating inter- and transdisciplinary program will provide a unique basis for exchange and critical discussions on important topics of social and scientific life. I wish you a profound, but also very enjoyable experience. Have fun!

Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann

Rector,
University of Bern

Prof. Dr. Marco Herwegh

Dean, Faculty of Science,
University of Bern
The topic of this year’s festival, “Reconnecting Science and Society,” addresses the need to foster trustworthy and fruitful communication between science and a wider public.

After a successful spring edition of the festival in Zurich, Lugano, and Basel, we now invite you to Bern for two days of exchange and collaboration. Filmmakers, researchers, and different audiences can share the unique experience of sitting together in a cinema, watching and discussing films. Our short film session provides a stage for professional as well as student film work. Furthermore, in accompanying workshops, we will have the chance to deepen our understanding of experimental filmic methods.

Sponsored by universities, the festival also sets an example of how researchers and students from different disciplines can organize and celebrate together.

Samer Angelone
Swiss Science Film Academy

Susan Thieme and Mirko Winkel
mLAB, Institute of Geography, University of Bern
EN  The documentary shows the impact of the current war on the environment in Ukraine, as well as how scientists from different disciplines are working to document what is happening in order to assess its consequences for ecosystems. The film was made under the difficult conditions of martial law and restricted access to mined areas.

DE  Der Dokumentarfilm zeigt die Auswirkungen des aktuellen Krieges auf die Umwelt in der Ukraine und wie sich Wissenschaftler:innen verschiedener Disziplinen dafür einsetzen, die Geschehnisse zu dokumentieren, um die Folgen für die Ökosysteme zu beurteilen. Der Film entstand unter den schwierigen Bedingungen des Kriegsrechts und des eingeschränkten Zugangs zu verminten Gebieten.

Followed by a discussion about the ecological consequences of war and scientific work in war zones with producer Yevhen Tkach and Adrien Mestrot – professor of soil science, University of Bern
Moderator: Payal Parekh – climate scientist and activist

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Saturday, October 28, 14:00

Ukrainian Natalia Shevchenko is the director of the film. She is an environmentalist and makes environmental documentaries.

Yevhen Tkach is a producer of non-feature films at EXPL Films, a studio for popular science and educational films.
Followed by a discussion on **how to deal with the future past of our environment** with co-director **Alex Gerbaulet** and **Larryn W. Diamond** - professor emeritus of geochemistry & petrology, University of Bern

_Moderator: Mirko Winkel – artist & coordinator mLAB, University of Bern_

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**SONNE UNTER TAGE**

**Saturday, October 28, 15:30**

DE  Bis 1990 baute die sowjetische Aktiengesellschaft SAG Wismut in der DDR Uran für das Atomwaffenprogramm der UdSSR ab. Auch die DDR-Umweltbewegung wurde darauf aufmerksam. Der Film folgt diese Spur durch die heutigen Landschaften, die von Abbau und Sanierung geprägt sind, und versteht den Boden als Archiv. *Sonne unter Tage* ist eine Tiefenbohrung in Raum und Zeit und erkundet das Element Uran hinsichtlich seiner materiellen, metaphorischen und geopolitischen Umlagerungen.

**EN**  Until 1990, the Soviet joint-stock company SAG Wismut mined uranium in the GDR for the USSR’s nuclear weapons program. The GDR environmental movement also became aware of this. The film follows this trail through today’s landscapes, which are marked by mining and ecological restoration, and understands the ground as an archive. *Sonne Unter Tage* drills deep into space and time, exploring the material, metaphorical, and geopolitical transformations of the element uranium.

The film’s co-director **Alex Gerbaulet** lives and works as an artist, filmmaker, and producer in Berlin. She is part of the production platform *pong* film. She has been awarded with, among others, the prize for best contribution at the German Competition of the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen and the German Film Critics’ Prize.

The co-director and artist **Mareike Bernien** takes a media-archaeological approach in her work, questioning ideological certainties of representation, their material-technological preconditions, and historical continuities. This film, which premiered at the Berlinale, won awards at the Duisburger Filmwoche, among others.
We first see William under a hood made of fabric laced with copper wires in a remote cabin in Sweden. For ten years, he has been fighting a disease that defies scientific verification: electromagnetic hypersensitivity. Affected people experience discomfort from the radiation emanating from electronic devices that makes it impossible for them to continue living a digitalized life. The visually powerful film depicts the experiences of a young man and his emotional world in dealing with the disease with the support of his concerned family, but also the inadequacies of the healthcare system.


Followed by a discussion about how society deals with disturbing diseases and how they can be portrayed in film with director Marie Lidén and Tobias Bracht – professor at University Hospital of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Bern
Moderation: Luca Tschiderer – health-care geographer, University of Bern

Marie Lidén is a Swedish-born and Glasgow-based artist and filmmaker. She focuses on documentaries, animation, and sound design. Her films range from BAFTA-nominated animated films to television documentaries. *Electric Malady* is her first feature-length film.

Saturday, October 28, 17:00 SWISS PREMIERE
A group of young Colombian women living in a shelter tell the story of Alis, their roommate. Like them, Alis has lived on the streets of Bogotá and becomes a stand-in for the young women themselves. In their imagination, she becomes a reflection of past fears, lost people, and their own future aspirations. This special documentary form allows empathetic access to the women’s lives and shows the power of fiction to break free of prescribed social roles.

Followed by a discussion about fiction as a research method and its potential for the development of new social models between directors Clare Weiskopf and Nicolás van Hemelryck with Irene Vögeli – professor in the MA Transdisciplinary Studies in the Arts, Zurich University of the Arts.

Co-director Clare Weiskopf is a filmmaker and journalist who has been working on social issues ranging from armed conflict in Colombia and sexual violence as a weapon of war to the global spread of cumbia music for over twenty years. Her film Amazona was nominated for the Goya and Fenix Awards.

Co-director Nicolás van Hemelryck is an award-winning filmmaker with a background as an architect and photographer. Together with Clare Weiskopf, he founded the production company Casatarantula. Their film Alis won the Crystal Bear and the Teddy Award at the Berlinale.
THE SEEDS OF VANDANA SHIVA

Sunday, October 29, 14:30

Followed by a discussion on social movements and food justice with Vandana Shiva and Theresa Tribaldos - researcher in food justice and sustainability transformation, University of Bern
Moderation: Surangika Jayarathne - researcher in gender and international relations, University of Bern

EN Vandana Shiva is one of the most important activists of our time. For four decades, she has campaigned for local and organic agriculture and the free availability of seeds. She fights against powerful corporations that dominate agriculture through the sale of pesticides and genetically modified seeds, inspiring an entire global movement for food justice.


The directing team Camilla and Jim Becket founded Becket Films to encourage people to advocate for a healthy environment and social justice through film. They have produced more than 15 documentaries, many of which have won awards, including Sons of Africa.
At the beginning of the thematically wide-ranging program of short films by professional filmmakers, we will see three films that were produced within the framework of the last Science Film Marathon. Scientists and students from different Swiss universities worked together as a team to produce short films in a very limited time.

Followed by an exchange with the filmmakers and Susan Thieme, professor of critical sustainability studies and Mirko Winkel, mLAB

**UNCOVERING THE UNKNOWN**

Equipped with the newest technologies, a scientist investigates a mysterious appearance in the forests of Graubünden (Switzerland). Uncovering the Unknown is a film about new biodiversity-monitoring methods and how the combined efforts of passionate researchers can help us better understand the (bio)diversity of our planet.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS Team: Emanuele Aucone, Niklas Frost, Luca Girardi, Tatiana Keller, Flurin Leugger, Gian Marco Palamara

**PACK-BODY: A GAME OF MOBILITY**

There are too many factors at play for people to have a successful mobility experience. Some of these are quite random, like in a video game. Pack-Body pictures the story of a successful and unsuccessful attempt at moving across borders.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS Team: Eda Elif Tibet, Eleonora Dallorto, Sarah Hartmann, Laura Knoch, Zeynep Köylü, Sandra La Rota

**SEWING SOULS**

In communities where people have experienced human-made trauma, silence around the trauma and mistrust are high, especially if there is no strong culture of sharing trauma. Despite some beliefs that marriage should heal, it can also lead to family problems.

SCIENTISTS-AS-FILMMAKERS Team: Célestin Mutuyimana, Nataliya Borys, Yinyin Ma, Surangika Jayarathne, Yumo Cheng, Eda Elif Tibet
AUTOSAURUS REX
DIRECTOR: Marcel Barelli
YEAR 2022
LENGTH 6 min
FR with EN subtitles

Among the different species that inhabit our planet, one stands out from the others for its power and its impact on ecosystems: the Autosaurus Rex.

SEE ME
DIRECTOR: Charlene Mangweni-Furusa
YEAR 2020
LENGTH 5 min
EN with DE subtitles

See Me is a heartfelt deep-dive into experiences of young people in Zimbabwe living with HIV/AIDS and how they were affected by Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. The film takes us through some of their related struggles, including stigma discrimination, abuse, mental health, and gender-based violence.

GHOSTED
DIRECTORS: Nimal Bourloud, Filippo Bozzini, Paloma Gude
YEAR 2020
LENGTH 5 min
EN with DE subtitles

Collected, catalogued, and categorized. Sorted and stored. To be displayed in a wooden cabinet or left in the dark to slumber. But can you really contain a spirit or ghost? The present will always be haunted. Ghosted explores the imaginaries around objects in the ethnographic museum of Neuchâtel, as well as the haunting colonial past of the city in general.
MOLES

DIRECTOR: Vanja Victor Kabir Tognola

Anna, Francesco, and eight-year-old Giorgio can’t afford a fancy holiday. Social pressure inspires them to fake a Bahamas vacation through photoshopped posts on social media. The deluge of likes and comments fuel an all-consuming dopamine rush.

CASSIS. MARS DEMYSTIFIED. DEVILS

DIRECTOR: Tatiana Keller

CaSSIS is a high-resolution color stereo camera in orbit around Mars that takes remarkable images of the red planet. What mysteries has it revealed today? Who left these dark, curly tracks on the surface of Mars? Are there giant worms or devils? Together with Detective Nick and CaSSIS camera, we will demystify the secrets of the red planet.
Followed by a discussion about social segregation and ways to overcome it with the actress Joanna Said and Anukriti Dixit - researcher in public & social policy, University of Bern
Moderation: India James-Licher - researcher in neurosurgery with interests in Afro-Swiss culture, University of Bern

EN  “Why do we all have to speak Hebrew?” asks the youngest participant in a film workshop for four Jewish and four Arab women. Guided by Rona, a young filmmaker from Tel Aviv, they learn to document their everyday world on film in weekly meetings at a community center. Their beliefs and prejudices are challenged. The realities of the women’s lives, which are usually very separate from each other, are connected through the process of filming together.


Director Orit Fouks Rotem’s first feature film is inspired by her own experiences as a teacher. The film won 5 Ophir Awards and was chosen as the official Israeli nominee for the Academy Award for Best International Film. It won the Best Director Award at this year’s Global Science Film Festival in Zurich.

Actress Joanna Said is a Palestinian-Israeli actress who won the Israeli Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in her first film, Cinema Sabaya.
The Science Film Academy was founded by Swiss scientists and filmmakers who share a passion for communicating science through film.

The main showcase of the Science Film Academy is the Global Science Film Festival, inaugurated in 2017. The Global Science Film Festival promotes constructive dialogue between filmmakers, scientists, and society on essential global challenges facing us as human beings.

Since 2014, Academy members have established science film education programs at nine Swiss universities and research centers.

The mLAB at the Institute of Geography at the University of Bern is an experimental space that encourages researchers to develop new modes of collaborative and collective work and to critically use art, media, and digital research methods as an integral part of their work, promoting unorthodox coalitions of aesthetics and geography.

In addition to making research results visible, the focus is on sensory routes of knowledge creation. Art-based methods and perspectives enable a different kind of research. They place researchers and research participants at the center and in relation to each other in new ways. They open up spaces for the invisible and the unspeakable and provoke new ways of approaching a topic.

The mLAB is run by Prof. Dr. Susan Thieme (Critical Sustainability Studies), Prof. Dr. Carolin Schurr (Social and Cultural Geography), and the artist Mirko Winkel. It comprises a team of scholars interested in discovering new directions and imaginative formats within and beyond geography.
Ticket price per screening / Ticketpreis pro Veranstaltung

- Normal tickets / Normalpreis CHF 10.-
- Reduced* / Reduziert* CHF 7.-

* KulturLegi / AHV+IV+ALV / students / children and young people

Limited number of free tickets for students of the University of Bern and for visitors up to the age of 18. To be collected on the day of the screening up to 30 min. before the start time. First come, first serve.

TICKETS AVAILABLE / ERHÄLTLICH

- on location / vor Ort
- online: www.rexbern.ch
- by phone / telefonisch
  031 311 75 75

VENUE / SPIELORT

Kino REX Bern
Schwanengasse 9
3011 Bern