

Scientific abstract –**Authorship, Location and Casting in Transnational European Films During the Cold War**

Gillo Pontecorvo's *The Battle of Algiers* (1965) and *Queimada/Burn!* (1968), along with Costa-Gavras' *Z* (1968), *State of Siege* (1972), and *Missing* (1982), represent a unique moment in film history and world politics where left-wing politics, critical acclaim, and box office success were not viewed as incompatible. This research project will focus on two European filmmakers, Gillo Pontecorvo and Costa-Gavras, who produced political cinematic works intended for broad audiences, set in and focusing on developing countries during the Cold War era. Most academic studies tend to link Pontecorvo's and Costa-Gavras' political films to the post-Second World War decolonization struggles in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. However, until recently, much of the research on these filmmakers has overlooked the connection between their aesthetic, narrative, and thematic choices and the economic and political contexts of the film industry during that historical moment. This research project aims to assemble a transnational political, economic, and cultural history of Pontecorvo's and Costa-Gavras' films during the Cold War period, focusing on questions of authorship, location, and casting, as these reveal the reproduction of hidden ideological assumptions and asymmetries between developed and underdeveloped (Third World) countries.