

Film Evening & Discussion with Film Directors

No Place Like Home. Return Films in Southeastern Europe

Thursday, October 6, 2022, 19:30 – 21:00 pm

Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing

Opening Remarks:

Linda Paganelli, Visual Anthropologist-Artist-Filmmaker, Berlin

Anne Pirwitz, Research Associate, Institute for Roman Studies, University of Potsdam

Short Film presentation:

Film 1: Don't Come Home This Year, by Stefan Voicu (Romania) 8 Min

Film 2: In Between / Në mes, by Samir Karahoda (Kosovo) 13 Min

Film 3: The Birthdayboy / Sărbătoritul, by Sabin Dorohoi (Romania) 18 Min

Q&A session with the film directors:

Stefan Voicu, Samir Karahoda (online), Sabin Dorohoi

Topic

To tackle the topic of re-migration visually, we have chosen three short movies that deal with this topic, digging into different dimensions. The first movie *“Don't Come Home This Year”* exposes the controversies and tensions between returnees, migrants who stayed abroad, and persons who remained in Romania; the second movie *“In Between / Në mes”* reveals expectations and hopes of parents in Kosovo; and the last movie *“The Birthdayboy / Sărbătoritul”* discloses feelings of nostalgia and abandonment in Romania.

Linda Paganelli and Anne Pirwitz will introduce the film evening with a brief overview of the particularity of Southeast European migration films and an insight into the subgenre of return film. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the film directors.



Registration

This film event will take place only on-site at the Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing. As the number of seats is very limited, we kindly ask for timely registration (until September 28, 2022) at the following link: [Registration Form](#)

Film 1: Don't Come Home This Year (8 Min)



“Don't come home this year“ by Stefan Voicu is a short video about Romanian migrants returning home from Italy during the Covid-19 pandemic. The video uses found footage that became viral on social media made by returnees stuck between Austria and Hungary, by Romanians who remained abroad, and those who never left. It creates a virtual dialogue revealing bitter discussions between the protagonists of diaspora.

Stefan Voicu received his PhD in sociology and social anthropology at Central European University. He is currently researching the transformations of arable land property relations and agri-food commodity chains in post-socialist Romania in connection to the financialization of global capitalism. His research interests are agrarian class formation, uneven development, environmental change, and visual methods. He has been a member of the FocaalBlog editorial team since 2017.

Film 2: In Between / Në mes (13 Min)



The film “**In Between / Në mes**” by Samir Karahoda shows, in an ironical and “geometrical” photography, the effort of Kosovar parents to build identical houses in Kosovo for the daughters and sons living and working abroad, in the hope that they may one day return.

Samir Karahoda began working as a photographer in 1992. In 2003, he completed his photography studies at the Academy of Fine Arts at Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul. In addition to his work as a photographer, he is also a cinematographer, tutor and curator of the short film program at the Documentary and Short Film Festival DokuFest. Cinematographed several shorts and feature films including his own films. His documentary short film "In Between" was his directorial debut, which in 2019 had its world premiere at the Berlinale as the first Kosovar film to compete at this festival. In Between (Në mes) was also a candidate for the European Film Academy Award EFA.

Film 3: The Birthdayboy / Sărbătoritul (18 Min)



“**Sărbătoritul / The Birthday boy**” by Sabin Dorohoi is the story of a 12-year-old teenager who lives with his grandfather. The story unfolds during his birthday, when his parents come home from Western Europe to celebrate with him. However, the long absence of the parents creates conflicts and a feeling of despair.

Sabin Dorohoi graduated the Film Academy from Bucharest as film director. In 2013, he founded WTS - Western Transylvania Studios, a production company in the western part of Romania, to provide full production services for international projects from Western Europe or the US. He produced short films and TV documentaries, some of them selected and awarded in film festivals around the world. His most internationally acclaimed creation was the short film “Way of the Danube” (2013), which won the grand prize at Oscar qualifying Chicago International Children’s Film Festival, USA. Furthermore, it was the only Romanian film ever to be screened partially during Eurovision Song Contest Vienna 2015, it won a Cinematography award at Capalbio, Italy, the Young Public Award at CINEMED (Montpellier, France) and was selected in many festivals around the world such as Palm Springs ShortFest, Nordkapp, Vilnius, or California Independent Film Festival. “Clara” (shot in 2022) will be his first feature film.

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