Digital media has changed the everyday lives of millions of people worldwide. However, the focus on these recent technological developments tends to emphasize the lives of those in first-world nations.

How is it that digital media, mobile technologies, and new cinematic forms of representation have changed the production and experience of art, economies, and culture in the global south?

Focusing on contemporary developments in digital media, and especially film and the arts, the “Digital Media, New Cinemas, and the Global South” symposium explored the creative and tactical integration of digital media and new technologies through:

- New African cinema
- Media creation and distribution in Southeast Asia and South America, and
- Films that engage a minoritarian viewpoint regardless of geopolitical origins.

Gathering just prior to the screening of Kenyan film director Wanuri Kahiu’s films Pumzi and From a Whisper to open the Global South symposium were MSU Professors Joshua Yumibe, Kenneth Harrow, and Swarnavel Pillai; Professors Mary Beltrán (University of Texas-Austin), and Peter Limbrick (University of California Santa Cruz); Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh; MSU doctoral student Cajetan Iheka; MSU Broad Art Museum Assistant Curator Yesomi Umolu; and Professor Jo Ellen Fair (University of Wisconsin-Madison).
The lead MSU event organizer was Professor Kenneth Harrow and U/M lead organizer was Professor Frieda Ekotto.

A three-day event hosted on the Michigan State University and University of Michigan campuses April 3-5, 2014, the symposium began with a film screening Thursday evening at MSU of Pumzi and From a Whisper, presented by Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu. Two days of panels and speakers followed Friday at MSU, and Saturday at U/M, along with a performance installation and discussion with Emeka Ugboh at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum Friday evening.

Subject matter expert panel members at MSU and the titles of their sessions included:

**LATIN AMERICAN AND SOUTH ASIAN CINEMA AND MEDIA**

Courtney Donoghue, Oakland University, on *What Do You Mean by International Market: Contemporary Brazilian Cinema and Distribution Cultures*.

Dennis Hanlon, University of St. Andrews, on *Digital Media, Scale, and the Lessons of Imperfect Cinema: A Comparative Approach to Bolivia and India*.

Catherine Benamo, UC Irvine.

**NORTH AFRICAN, AFRICAN, MIDDLE EASTERN, AND U.S. MINORITIES MEDIA**

Peter Limbrick, UCSC, on *Genealogies of Experimentation in Moroccan Film and Media*.

Mary Beltran, University of Texas, on *New Frontiers/Nueva Fronteras for Latina/os in Web Television*.

Jo Ellen Fair, University of Wisconsin, on *YouTube Makes Dystopia: Warring Liberia Again and Again*.

**SOUTH ASIAN CINEMA AND MEDIA**

Swarnavel Pillai, Michigan State University

Amit Rai, University of London, Queen Mary, on *The Effect of Jugaad: Frugal Innovation and Postcolonial Practice in India’s Mobile Phone Ecology*.

Anastup Basu, University of Illinois, on *Bollywood Cinema, The Digital, and the Question of Hindu Normalcy*.

Ravi Sundaram, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi – New Digital Media and South Asian Cinemas – presented an opening keynote address on *Recycling modernity: Pirate electronic cultures in India*.

Saturday at U/M – Ann Arbor

On Saturday, the parallel symposium at U/M was hosted by Professor Frieda Ekotto, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Rwandan filmmaker Kivu Ruhorahoza’s film *Grey Matter* was also screened, and three additional expert panels were convened:

*The Cinematic Self* with speakers:

Jean Marie Teno, Filmmaker, Cameroon

Melissa Thackway, Film critic/author, France

*Cinematic Sites* with speakers:

Nilo Couret, University of Michigan

Frieda Ekotto, University of Michigan

Onookome Okome, University of Alberta

*Cinematic Screens* with speakers:

Beti Ellerson, Director of the Center for the Study and Research of African Women in Cinema

Carmela Garritano, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Mary Ellen Higgins, Penn State University