

Creating Shared Experience – Sensory Ethnography and Collaborative Filmmaking
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

**From the film gesture to the gestures in the film L'USINE, C'EST PARTICULIER QUAND
MÊME (DE/FR 2017)**

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The 78-min documentary film L'USINE, C'EST PARTICULIER QUAND MÊME (DE/FR 2017, 78min) is the result of a participant observation in a French factory near Orléans, I came to realize within three days in February 2017. Through seven interviews and working sequences on the production line, it shows the ordinary life, the gestures and the discussions of the workers in a worker-owned company, where the workers are involved in the organization-processes. Confronted with this specific organization, my documentary film invites to reflect on the following questions: What is a worker? Which images and which stereotypes does "the worker" bring about? What is it like to work in a packaging factory nowadays in France? What is happiness? Inspired by historical films on workers like CHRONICLE OF A SUMMER, Jean Rouche (FR 1961) and some recent publications on the working class (*Returning to Reims* from Didier Eribon), my purpose was to question the representation of "workers" in and for academic context. But, by taking a practice-based form for a rather academic set of questions, the film slowly became the site of various, somehow contradictory social interactions and compromises. Also, because it was strongly influenced by my own experience as a temporary worker in that same factory. In my talk, I will explore the way film practice combines subjectivity and knowledge production. I will take the context of emergence of the film as a student film project as a starting point and show how the personal investment on the one hand and the abstract knowledge on the other hand influenced me throughout the production and shaped and destabilized my perspective as a (first time) filmmaker.