

Creating Shared Experience. Sensory ethnography and collaborative filmmaking

In the intersecting fields of documentary and visual anthropology, the experimental modes of sensory ethnography and collaborative filmmaking have challenged representational traditions of audiovisual research. Both styles of anthropological practices deploy multisensory qualities of film not only to document and investigate, but also to participate and intervene in complex social and ecological environments. In the same line of thinking, visual and acoustic strategies provide occasions for creating new forms of relationality. In this conference, we would like to address the role of sensory experience in collaborative research practices and, vice versa, the production of what we call shared sensory experiences in collaborative filmmaking.

Creating shared experience brings together scholars and filmmakers, practitioners and theorists from (visual) anthropology, film and media studies in order to discuss past and future intersections of collaborative and multisensory research in relation to activism and social change as well as to new forms of a shared ethnographic experience.

Although sensory and collaborative approaches are rooted in different genealogies, they are both influenced by discussions in postcolonial theory, emancipatory movements and activism aiming at enabling different experiences, altering epistemologies and emancipatory representations through the very medium of film and the process of filmmaking. On the one hand, the conference will explore how experience is inventive and creative. On the other, it considers how Creating shared experience of collaborative filmmaking can become a platform for bringing together research and social practices.

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Shared Experience
Sensory Ethnography and Collaborative Filmmaking
14 - 16 February 2019
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Creating

Thursday, February 14th → Lichthaus cinema

- 2 – 2:15 p.m. Welcome Note by Christiane Voss, Director of KOMA (Kompetenzzentrum Medienanthropologie, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)
- 2:15 – 3 p.m. Introduction (Julia Bee, Sven Seibel)
Section 1: Sensory Ethnography
- 3 – 5 p.m. Screening »MANAKAMANA« (Stephanie Spray/Pacho Velez 2013)
- 5 – 5:30 p.m. Coffee Break
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Keynote 1 Stephanie Spray: On Intimacy and Deceptive Traces in Sensory Ethnography
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner at Lichthaus cinema
- 7:30 – 9 p.m. Screening »Who Does the Earth Think It Is? Becoming Fire« (2019), Q&A with filmmaker Elke Marhöfer

Friday, February 15th → IKKM Lounge

- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Section 2: Histories of Collaboration
Henning Engelke Sharing Difference/ Understanding Media: Cinematic Research, Visual Anthropology and Ecologies of Communication in the 1960s
Anja Dreschke und Michaela Schäuble Mediating Tarantism – How to Create Shared Experiences of an Apulian Ritual
- 12 – 1 p.m. Lunch
- 1 – 3 p.m. Section 3: Sensory Ethnography: Sound and Gesture
Anna Lisa Ramella Sounding Out the Field – Sensory Experiences of an Ethnography on Tour
Marion Biet From the Film Gesture to the Gestures in the Film »L'usine, c'est particulier quand même« (DE/FR 2017)
- 3 – 3:30 p.m. Walk to Lichthaus cinema // coffee

→ Lichthaus Cinema

- 3:30 – 5:30 Keynote 2 Elizabeth Povinelli: Bait, Lure, MacGuffin: The Ends of the Anthropology of Art
Screening »The Mermaids, or Aiden in Wonderland« (2018) Karrabing Film Collective
- 6:00 – 7:00 Buffet
- 7:00 – 9:00 Screening »Les Sauteurs« (2016) and Q&A with Filmmakers Abou Bakar Sidibé, Moritz Siebert, and Estephan Wagner

Shared

Saturday, February 16th → IKKM Lounge

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Section 4: Collaboration Today
Martin Gruber Collaborative Ethnographic Filmmaking as Applied Research & Intervention
Ulrike Mothes Auto-Ethnography and Peoples Film Collectives. Current Collaborative Documentary Projects in India
Coffee
Andrew Irving The Man Who Almost Killed Himself: Three Modes of Collaboration
Johannes Sjoberg SuperManc, Super-Milanese and SuperSwede: Filming Participatory Superhero Performances in Ethnographic Research on European Urbanity
- 2 – 2:30 p.m. Buffet
- 2:30 – 3 p.m. Closing discussion

→ Venues:

Kino Lichthaus
Am Kirschberg 4, 99423 Weimar

IKKM Lounge in der Universitätsbibliothek
Steubenstr. 6-8, 99423 Weimar

Experience