

SOUND AND IMAGES: VIDEO ESSAY WORKSHOP

Lead Coordinator, Jennifer M. Bean (UW-Seattle)

Additional Coordinators: David Coon (UW-Tacoma) and Lauren Berliner (UW-Bothell)

Abbreviated Description

The dramatic evolution of media technology in the 21st century affords unique possibilities for galvanizing humanities scholarship, especially scholarship whose object is audiovisual media itself—film, television, and other new media and electronic forms. This workshop will bring together 20 graduate students and faculty from diverse departments and campuses to learn techniques for editing and re-constructing images and sounds as a mode of critical reflection and communication.

OVERVIEW

Developments in digital technology have created opportunities for scholars and teachers to move beyond the written word to convey analyses and arguments through multimedia forms. Media scholars are now creating and manipulating images and sounds to produce what are being called “videographic essays.” This new form of digital humanities scholarship uses the language and forms of audiovisual media to critique audiovisual media, allowing scholars and teachers to explore their object of study from the inside out. This is a growing form with rich potential for a new generation of scholarship and teaching in the humanities.

In 2015, faculty from Middlebury College, led by Professor Jason Mittell, developed an annual NEH-funded two-week summer workshop on their campus. In late 2016, they created an abridged version to take to other campuses. We are requesting funding to help bring this workshop to the University of Washington in fall 2018. According to Professor Mittell, “The workshop consists of four modules: a public lecture introducing the concept of videographic criticism, two 2-hour hands-on workshops with a group of participating faculty and graduate students on consecutive days, and an “open lab” session in between the two workshops to help participants complete their homework & consult on their ideas.” The workshop will be hosted on the Seattle campus and coordinated by faculty from all three UW campuses (Jennifer Bean, Seattle; David Coon, Tacoma; Lauren Berliner, Bothell). Aside from the public lecture, which will be open to any interested partisan, space in the workshop will be limited to 20 participants. Priority will be given to those working in film and media studies, with space for 5 faculty from Tacoma, 5 faculty from Seattle, 2 faculty from Bothell, and 8 PhD students from the CMS graduate program/Seattle.

Given its potential for opening new modalities for scholarship, teaching and public engagement, this workshop will provide valuable professional development to all participants. It will also help participants develop new areas of teaching expertise. To prepare workshop attendees for the three-day event, we will offer a series of Adobe Premiere Pro editing tutorials in the Media Arcade in Suzallo/Allen library (4-8 can work together at a time in this rent-free space). We will hire a graduate student assistant to lead the tutorial sessions and to be ‘on hand’ as a technical assistant during the workshop. We will also allow graduate students who are not selected for the workshop to attend these tutorials, since audiovisual editing skills are increasingly essential to the profile of any cinema and media studies’ scholar. Following the workshop, participants will have the remainder of the quarter to re-edit and polish their projects. We will then hold a public showcase of selected works.

Two members of our community already have demonstrated the potential of video-graphic criticism in their scholarship and teaching. Sarah Ross, a PhD student in the CMS graduate program, was

awarded an NEH fellowship to attend the 2-week workshop at Middlebury College in June 2017. In November 2017, the Cinema and Media Studies program and the Media Publics Research Group invited Sarah to deliver a public talk in which she outlined the many definitions and possibilities for videographic criticism, led audience members through an array of audio-visual “assignments” she participated in during her residency at Middlebury, and then showed the 13-minute video essay she had created at the workshop. The enthusiastic response to Sarah’s presentation, and vocal desire of our colleagues and our graduate students to participate in this type of audiovisual work, inspired us to propose this event. Frankly, Sarah Ross’ work also inspired the CMS program to invite her to develop a new undergraduate course on “Video Essay Production,” which she is teaching this spring quarter. Finally, let us add that Susan Harewood, a faculty member at UW-Bothell, has been accepted to the Middlebury College workshop with a residency in June 2018. We look forward to learning more about Susan’s experience, and will invite her to share her work at the public showcase we are planning in late autumn quarter 2018.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Preparatory Events

*6 2-hour Adobe Premiere Tutorials in the Media Arcade, Seattle Campus, Suzzallo/Allen Library; scheduled at two and then one-week intervals prior to the campus workshop event, beginning during late summer term B. Tutorials offered by graduate student assistant.

“Sound and Images: Video Essay Workshop” with Jason Mittell

****(participants should bring video files in .mp4 or .avi format of film/s they would like to work with; also, participants should have an external hard drive, compatible with MAC, as they will need to store their work after each session.)*

Jason Mittell, Itinerary: UW-Seattle, Oct 4-7

Watertown Hotel, 4242 Roosevelt Way NE, 206-826-4242

<https://www.staypineapple.com/watertown-hotel-seattle-wa>

Thursday, Oct. 6

6:39: United Flight 1641 (John O’Neal pick-up at curb; his cell: 206-769-3608)

7:45: Dinner, with Sarah Ross, Jennifer Bean and John O’Neal, in Wallingford neighborhood,

Tilth: <http://mariahinesrestaurants.com/restaurants/tilth/?activeTab=0>

Friday, Oct. 5

9:40, Pick up in lobby of Watertown Hotel; walk to campus

10:00-12:00: WORKSHOP, OUGL 102/CMU 202, screen PechaKucha from September exercise; overview of videographic concepts and approach; detail idea driving array of exercises; assignment given for two exercises—each participant may opt to choose one, if not both.

12:15-1:45: LUNCH, UW Club

2:00-4:00. OPEN LAB Session, OUGL 102: Participants work on chosen assignment, with assistant Sarah Ross and Jason Mittell (Mittell leaves 3:30)

4:00-5:30: PUBLIC TALK, CMU 120: Jason Mittell on Videographic Criticism

5:30-7:00. RECEPTION, CMU 204, Simpson Center

7:30: Dinner, with grads, TBD

Saturday, Oct. 6

10:00-12:00, WORKSHOP, OUGL 102, in-class exercises with Jason Mittell and additional lab time to complete assignment

12:15-1:45, LUNCH, CMU 204, catered by *Le Fournil* at Simpson Center

2:00-4:00, WORKSHOP, OUGL 102/ CMU 202: view projects; meta-discussion; pedagogical reflections—additional assignments for those who want to create projects for public screening in December or as supplement to dissertation or book project, etc.

6:30, Dinner, *Nell's*, in Greenlake Neighborhood, with faculty coordinators:

<http://www.nellsrestaurant.com/>

Sunday, Oct. 7

Depart, 11:40

Alaska Airlines Flight 662 (We will arrange for a car to pick you up for airport return).

Post-Workshop Event (*9th or 10th week of autumn quarter*)

3:30-5:00, Showcase of selected works from the October workshop, including round-table discussion of audio-visual-based teaching assignments for undergraduate and graduate classrooms

5:00-7:00, Reception, CMU 204, Simpson Center