

From Abstract and keywords to Film making: Creating Historical Videos in and out of an Academic Context

Contact: Sam Smiley, AstroDime Transit Authority

Email: ssmiley@lesley.edu

Film and video often engage with history through documentary. Material culture and historical archives, often play a large part in making a video or film visually engaging. The purpose of this session is to have a dialogue about the context of and effectiveness of film making in academia, specifically in a historical context. There are three points that will be considered in looking these films:

- 1) The research and history. Is it academically sound, where are the sources? How does one cite one's sources in a documentary?
- 2) Storytelling. What strategies are used to tell the story and is the storytelling successful in its own terms? There are many types of digital storytelling and many different story arcs so this session is inclusive of different forms of storytelling.
- 3) Finally, there is the craft of the video or film. How is it made and who is the audience? Is it created for a television or mainstream film context? Or is it a DIY video made for immediate distribution to specific communities?

The purpose of this session is to invite 3-4 scholars who are creating video or film of any length, to pre-circulate these works to fellow panelists. Fellow panelists will comment on the works prior to the round table using the above questions as a starting point. For this panel and workshop, panelists will only present for 15 minutes, to leave time for information sharing at the end of this session. Works in progress are welcome and in fact preferred.

BIO:

Sam Smiley is a media artist, researcher and educator. Smiley's own scholarly research is in the history and epigenetic journey of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia Japonica*) from the 1800s in Japan to New England, present day. Smiley is a board member of [Ethnografilm.com](http://ethnografilm.com), a yearly festival of scholarly ethnographic film that takes place in Paris, France. Smiley is also part of a curating media arts and research collective called AstroDime Transit Authority.