

Code: FLMD-365E.01

Course title: East European MyStreet Project

Course convenors: András Müllner

Class time and place: Thursday 14:15-15:45 39

Course type: Seminar

Course content: Research in a community based and participatory documentary filmmaking
The MyStreet Project is a grassroots documentary filmmaking movement, which was launched by anthropologist Michael Stewart in Great Britain in 2011, and later its centre was relocated from London to Prague. The movement dispersed fast in Central and East Europe via workshops and festivals, and now in this region young and less young documentarists make their 5-10 minutes long documentaries about their location and their own communities living there. According to Michael Stewart, who wrote an essay about the origin of MyStreet, the history of self-representation and self-ethnography goes back to the 30es, when few young artists and scholars started the Mass Observation project in order to counterbalance the images of the mainstream media. This community based and participatory action managed to involve many people who became interested in their own local culture and approached their cultural environment in a much more reflexive way due to the process of documentation and registration. In a time when democracy seems to fail in many countries, there is an urgent need to improve our reflexivity in presenting the interests of our own community and in expressing our otherness to counterbalance the mainstream hegemonic and exclusive images created and forced by the state power, national institutions or ethnic ideologies. In this course we will have more directions to make ourselves familiar with the MyStreet movement. There are essays to be read (like Stewart's among others), and MyStreet documentaries to be watched and discussed. Beyond these activities, the students who will attend the course and hopefully become MyStreet-enthusiasts, are supposed to make short ethnographic surveys on their own (temporary or permanent) dwellings, either in essay or in visual format.

Keywords: MyStreet, Mass Observation, civil journalism, self-ethnography, participatory action research, digital storytelling, documentary filmmaking

Requirements:

Learning outcomes:

Indicative Reading:
