

Universität Münster | Professional School

Visual Anthropology, Media and Documentary Practices

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

MODULES

Module 1 introduces students to audio-visual and media anthropology, meanwhile branching out into different narrative modes and methods, such as sensory, experimental, collaborative, participatory, auto-ethnographic, poetic and transcultural cinema. Moreover, students learn about the (qualitative) methodological toolkit of anthropological research.

Module 2 explores different narrative and representational strategies in film and beyond, for example in exhibition design and in audio-visual installation concepts. It deals with the poetics and visual aesthetics of film and other media productions, artistic research practices, the ethics of audio-visual representation and research through film.

Module 3 is a short film (and other media) production workshop from treatment development through to production and post-production. Apart from film production, the lecturers also emphasize non-linear filmmaking such as web-documentaries or multimodal media production such as websites that work with video, soundscapes, photography, text, drawing and podcasts.

Module 4 focuses on digital and media anthropology. Topics involve media and politics, queer, feminist and decolonial media, media activism and indigenous media. Students investigate into social media worlds and lecturers train them in the development of media-analytical skills.

Module 5 deals with approaches to applied audio-visual anthropology, particularly collaborative and participatory audio-visual production and research through collaborative projects. It also focuses on sensory and experimental filmmaking and the audio-visual exploration of human-environment and human-animal relationships.

Module 6 focuses primarily on film/media project development and funding strategies. As part of the module, students write their own consistent and compelling project treatment with the support and critical feedback of lecturers. Through a 5-day transcultural film workshop, the module supports students in exploring their own creative identity and equips them with the skills necessary to translate their vision into successful media projects.

Module 7 is the final colloquium where students present and discuss their research designs and media project proposals for their graduation projects. Qualitative methods, audio-visual and artistic research and proposal writing will be trained and taught. In addition to selected theoretical perspectives from social anthropology that relate to students' projects, further approaches and methods of



research through film and other media are discussed.

Module 8 provides a space for practical training in media production or related fields. This enables students to develop skills and build networks for their future careers. For example, students can undertake a classic internship (10 weeks) in the cultural and media industries or may produce a film or media project to fulfill the requirements of this module. Alternatively, students may undertake an empirical research project to train in qualitative methods and academic work. Students who are already working in a relevant professional field during their studies may also submit a report on their work instead of doing an extra internship.

Module 9 is the final module of the master program. In this module, students write a master's thesis and create a practical media project. Media projects can be films, non-linear web documentaries, drawings and texts, audio-visual installations, photo exhibitions, photo books or zines, or multimodal websites that include, for example, video, photography, soundscapes, podcasts, etc. Fiction films are also possible, as long as they relate to the research and representation of a social reality to be contextualized in the thesis. Students receive support and guidance from a supervisor and participate in a colloquium via video conference, where they present and discuss work in progress such as rough cuts or thesis chapters. Finally, students exhibit their media project at a screening evening and a graduation show.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A relevant undergraduate or first degree (at least 180 ECTS credit points, e.g., Bachelor and Master)
- At least one year of work experience in media production and/or the social sciences or cultural studies subsequent to the first university degree
- English level B2 pursuant to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

MANAGEMENT AND LECTURERS

Prof. Dr. Thomas Stodulka is the director of the master program in „Visual Anthropology, Media and Documentary Practices“ at the University of Münster. He is also professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Münster. Thomas John is the co-director of the program. He is a lecturer, holds an MA-degree in Visual and Media Anthropology and is a PhD student at FU Berlin. The program will be taught by an international team of highly qualified lecturers.

KEY FACTS

Location: University of Münster
Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Start: Winter Term
Tuition: 13,950* for the entire three-year program
Length of study: 6 semesters
(students have the possibility to complete the program after 5 semesters)
Max. no. of students admitted into the program: 22
Target group: Filmmakers (beginners as well as advanced), multimedia experts, students with a background in the social sciences and humanities and professionals with an interest in the complex connections between media, culture and society. Applications are welcome from both Germany and abroad.

* exempt from VAT pursuant to § 4 No.21 a (bb) UStG

CONCEPT AND STRUCTURE

The three-year master program trains students in (1) theory and practice of visual anthropology, (2) the documentary arts (film/photography/installation), as well as (3) media culture and media anthropology. Conceptual and practical knowledge in these areas can be applied in academia, the arts, culture and media industries, as well as to social, applied, or educational media projects. Students learn about the theoretical and practical foundations of visual anthropology, they gain experience in film production, project and film/media proposal development, as well as (audio-) visual installation, web-documentary or other forms of multimodal media production.

The master program is designed with working professionals in mind and is an option for people who want to study while continuing in employment or other commitments. The standard period of study is six semesters, i.e. 3 years. The master program comprises a total of 120 credit points and 50 days that require on-site attendance in Münster. The individual modules take place in blocks of 5-10 days.

The master program consists of 9 modules. Modules 1 to 7 are face-to-face courses in small groups that take place on-site in Münster. In between modules 1 to 7, students participate in five courses (tutorials) to follow up on the contents taught in the modules. In modules 8 and 9, students complete an internship and write a shortened MA-thesis that is accompanied by a media project. Thesis and media project are strongly intertwined and both count equally for the final MA project´s assessment.





Contact

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