TAG #39: archaeology and the camera truelle
theorising archaeology through the moving image

By 2022, it is predicted that video will account for 82% of global internet provider traffic (CISCO 2019). In other words, the moving image is set to become humanity’s dominant form of internet communication. Is archaeology ready for this? Archaeologists have embraced filmmaking as a form of recording, reporting, and promoting their work since at least the 1910s, and today, social media abounds in archaeologist-made videos that promote or report archaeological work and values. But can we use filmmaking practices (including videography and animation) to dig deeper than functioning merely as an illustration, record, or PR? Artists, documentary filmmakers, anthropologists, and journalists have long used the medium of filmmaking to ask and answer complex questions about the world in ways the still image and the written word cannot. Borrowing Piccini’s concept of the camera truelle (‘camera trowel’, based on Astruc’s concept of the camera-stylo, or ‘camera-pen’, Astruc 1948, in Piccini 2015: 2), we suggest that for archaeology to make the most of video communications in the 21st century, archaeologists must learn to ‘write’ with the moving image.

This session invites archaeologists and aligned heritage and media practitioners to discuss, screen, and share film, video, or animation works (completed or in-production) that actively use the medium of the moving image to generate and construct archaeological knowledge and theories. Speakers are also invited to develop their presentations into articles as part of a planned edited volume on the subject.

KEYWORDS
Film, video, animation, recording, drones, underwater filming, ethnographic film, CGI, 3D modelling, film archives, online platforms, databases, social media, live streaming, research design, film theory, media theory, archaeology theory.

FORMAT
Standard paper session: 20-minute papers, plus 5 minutes screening time, and 5 minutes discussion time per speaker.

SUBMIT
Email your title, 250 words abstract, name & affiliation, to Angela, Kate or Tanya by 02.09.2019.

ORGANISERS
Dr Angela Piccini, University of Bristol
a.a.piccini@bristol.ac.uk
Kate Rogers, University of Southampton
kate.rogers@soton.ac.uk
Tanya Freke, University of Exeter, Historic England
tv252@exeter.ac.uk

Find out more:
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/news-events/conferences/tag-2019/conference-sessions-31-55

REFERENCES