

The Second Ethnographic Film and Media Program of the Middle East and Central Eurasia of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), The Department of Sociology, University of Nantes, Nantes, France, November 2015

We are pleased to announce the second Ethnographic Film and Media Program of the Middle East and Central Eurasia, which will be held annually in conjunction with the Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

Our second program will be held with the collaboration of the Department of Sociology of the University of Nantes and Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Athéisme – IPRA/MSHG (Nantes) during 19th and 20th November 2015 (University of Nantes, Nantes, France).

Programme and organiser:

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Daughters of Anatolia

Hale Sophia Schatz/ 2015/ 56'/ Turkey



"Daughters of Anatolia" follows a Turkish family of nomadic goat herders as they travel ancient seasonal migration routes with their 350 animals, alternating between winters on the Mediterranean and summers in the Taurus Mountains. Focusing on the women, their work and their thoughts about their lives, the film captures how the family relies on their goats for their sustenance and livelihood: They make, eat and sell cheese and yogurt from the milk. They shear, spin, weave, and sell goat wool. They butcher the animals for their own meat consumption. The family is part of the Sarıkeçili Yörük tribe in Anatolia who have maintained their nomadic rhythms since the 12th century. Producer/Director Halé Sofia Schatz documents a lifestyle in transition – one that has roots in ancient traditions but that now faces challenges from an increasingly urbanized world.

***Deux Foix Le Meme Fleuve* (Same River Twice)**

Effi Weiss and Amir Borenstein/ 2015/ 110' / Belgium



In 1869, John McGregor, a Scottish explorer, arrives in Palestine to explore the Jordan River. In the summer of 2011, Effi and Amir, Israelis who have been living in Europe for the past decade, set out to retrace McGregor's steps, from the river source to the Sea of Galilee. Against the backdrop of a mythical landscape overflowing with Israeli vacationers, they take us along on a journey down the river's path. At the same time local and foreign, they gradually transform from traveler-explorers to 'explored travelers' - as the people they meet along the way unabashedly confront them about their relationship with the land they had left. The flow of encounters, invaded landscapes and spontaneous dialogues behind the camera raise questions of kinship and ownership, proximity and distance, and expose the biographical and ideological filters that condition our connection to a place.

I Comme Iran (I For Iran)
Sanaz Azari/ 2015/ 50'/Belgium



Brussels, behind the closed doors of a classroom. Using a textbook dating from the Islamic revolution, Sanaz Azari, the director, learns how to read and write in Persian, her mother tongue. Over the course of the lessons, the teacher initiates her to the basics of the language, which becomes a gateway to the history and culture of Iran. Gradually, the didactic method of the lessons evolves into a poetic, visual collage, which introduces the notion of freedom and questions the meaning of a revolution.

Salmon, Bears, Love Dances among the Itelmen on Kamchatka

Christoph Boekel/ 2015/ 44'/ Germany



As recently as the seventeenth century, the Itelmen were a population of twenty thousand, and the sole inhabitants of the southern half of Kamchatka, a large peninsula on the Pacific coast of northern Asia. The Itelmen were violently decimated in the aftermath of colonization by the Cossacks under the Russian Czar. Today, there are 1,500 Itelmen survivors – less than 1% of the Kamchatkan population. With the aid of German explorer G. W. Steller's (1709 – 1746) historic observations, they are attempting to revive parts of the ancient Itelmen culture.

This was Hasankeyf

Tommaso Vitali/ 2015/ 90'/ United Kingdom, Italy, Turkey



“This was Hasankeyf” is a deep political and poetic ethnography within - and a tribute to - this small community, where beauty derides death - the last possibility to live among its citizens, where the magnetic legacy of past cultures is intertwined with the desires and sorrows that the idea of Progress respectively provokes and inflicts, one sublime day living as rural heroes, exploring the petrifying perception of loss and change.

***The Tentmakers of Cairo* (صانعي الخيام في القاهرة)**

Kim Beamish/ 2015/ 94'/ Australia



For over three years we follow a community of artisans whose craft has remained largely untouched since Pharaonic times. They try and make sense of Egypt's recent history, as their hands stitch incredibly detailed designs. Contrasts exist not only in the imagery where art works clash with the dirt and grime of the street, but also in the social differences, wealth and political views. The shop becomes a discussion and rhetoric free space of intergenerational transmissions of timeless knowledge; the street of the tentmakers becomes a mirror of a larger public space where we read the country's political turmoil and the external world: a vital economic and social window.

White Lies

Melanie Langpap/ 2015/ 70'/Nepal



"White Lies" explores the photographic practices of photographers based in contemporary Nepal, a country sandwiched between China and India, some call it the "political, economic periphery". The writing of the country's Constitution remains pending until date and since the establishment of democracy in 2006. The recording for this film took place from Nov 2013 until Jan 2014, the time of Nepal's Constituent Assembly election. At that time one of the protagonists, a professional photojournalist says: "International politics give a shit about Nepal". After all the election is declared as "successful, free and fair".

The goal of our program is to promote original ethnographic films and visual media, not only in the area of anthropology, but also in sociology, folklore, religion, material culture and related topics. Our program encompasses all areas of the contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (the Russian Federation, the Caucasus, Central Asia, China), including topics on minority groups and religious themes.