

**Call for papers – Ethics in Documentary Film (26 October 2023, IDFF Jihlava)  
Second Annual Academic-Professional Conference**

**Documents of Time: How to Make the Absent Present  
from the dilemmas of using archive films through home videos to social media  
footage**

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to the second edition of the academic and professional conference Ethics in Documentary Film, creating a platform for discussing ethical issues within the film industry and documentary filmmaking among representatives of both professional and academic sphere (film studies, media studies, television/radio studies, history, postcolonial studies, etc.). The event is organised by Ji.hlava IDFF ([www.ji-hlava.cz](http://www.ji-hlava.cz)) in cooperation with the Centre for Media Ethics and Dialogue at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno ([www.cemetik.cz](http://www.cemetik.cz)).

This year we have chosen the theme *Documents of Time: How To Make the Absent Present*. Within the academic part of the conference we want to open a space for a broader discussion of how filmmakers and the film industry should deal with materials that they themselves have not filmed - be it archival documents of the time or actual media testimonies from the media, social networks, etc. We aim to explore the boundaries and principles associated with working with documentation, footage, home videos, social media posts, news reports, and other forms of media, especially in relation to the crises we face or have faced in the past (wars, ethnic conflicts, pandemics, genocide, totalitarian regimes, etc.).

We want to focus on these topics in particular:

- ethics and dilemmas of using archival materials, home videos, etc. in documentary filmmaking
- the reflection of ideology in archival, news and period materials in contemporary work
- representation of victims, witnesses and minorities, including the issue of secondary victimisation
- stereotyping, stigmatisation and dehumanisation
- propaganda and deep fake
- use of digital media content, social networks, videos made by internet users
- gender and ethnicity in archival materials and working with them in contemporary documentary
- the ethics of distributing historical material and propaganda films that have been used in the past to advocate violence and oppression
- handling public audiovisual archives
- a shared past - the ethics of audiovisual reflection on the past in a transnational context (especially in relation to Central Europe - totalitarianism, World War II, minority expulsions, etc.)
- the ethics of documentary editing

The logo for Ji.hlava is a stylized, handwritten-style script. The letters are thick and black, with a fluid, cursive quality. The 'j' and 'i' are connected, and the 'h' is particularly large and prominent. The overall impression is one of artistic and personal branding.

- postcolonial critique of documentary filmmaking in terms of the treatment of the past
- authorship and the problem of exploiting other authors' works to present one's own message
- legal aspects of the use of archives, news and social media material

Participants are welcome from all disciplines related to these topics - film studies, television/radio studies, documentary studies, media studies/media sociology, cultural studies, history, archival studies, postcolonial studies, area studies, gender studies, political science, sociology, social psychology, etc. We welcome both traditional forms of academic research and artistic research.

The conference seeks to bridge the academic and professional spheres and will therefore consist of panels aimed at professionals, practitioners, institutional representatives and academics. This call for papers is an invitation to the academic part of the conference, which will be a classic academic panel with presentations by the participants followed by a discussion. A peer-reviewed electronic proceedings will be published from the conference.

**The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2023, and should be submitted as an abstract of the paper to be presented with working title and contact details of the presenters to: [etika@ji-hlava.cz](mailto:etika@ji-hlava.cz).**

From the submitted applications, the conference board will select papers based on their professional level and thematic relevance. Selected presenters will be notified by September 15.

Participation in the conference is free of charge, but the organisers do not provide accommodation or transport.

**For more information please contact the conference production:**

Mgr. Veronika Verešová, Centre for Media Ethics and Dialogue, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. E-mail: [etika@ji-hlava.cz](mailto:etika@ji-hlava.cz)

**Conference Board:**

MgA. Jan Motal, Ph.D, Centre for Media Ethics and Dialogue, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Associate Professor, *academic guarantor of the conference*

Mgr. Tereza Swadoschová, Inspiration Forum, IDFF Jihlava, *organizational guarantor of the conference*

PhDr. Mgr. Andrea Slováková, Ph.D., MBA, FAMU, Dean

Mgr. Iveta Jansová, Ph.D., Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Assistant Professor



*Ji.hlava*