

Research in Film and History

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Call for Papers

The peer-reviewed open-access online journal *Research in Film and History* invites proposals for its fifth issue

Educational Film: Histories and Historiographies of Practice **Special issue**

After a long period of neglect by archives and scholars, educational film practice has recently been re-evaluated in the light of current educational uses of the moving image, including the proliferation of online formats like how-to and explainer videos. Then as now, the harnessing of the moving image for instructional, informational, and pedagogical purposes is accompanied by lively debates about the implications of image- rather than text-based knowledge transfer, oscillating between high hopes for the moving image's educational capacity and warnings of the dissipation of knowledge into audio-visual entertainment. The proposed themed issue of *Research in Film & History* aims to investigate the long history of these debates and practices, ranging from the improvised to the highly institutionally organized, which have just recently resurged due to home schooling and distant learning measures during COVID-19.

The aim of the special issue is to highlight and explore the notion of educational film *practice*. This concept of practice encompasses not only the screened films, but also the institutions that commissioned and distributed them, the legal provisions enacted to regulate use of films in educational contexts, and the venues and set-ups of screenings. Educational film practice materializes in the linkage between institutional policies, logistics of film production, distribution and re-appropriation, screening *dispositifs* (including social, disciplinary, and material aspects) and the form, style, and content of the films involved. This emphasis on practice has implications for empirical research as well as interpretation and the theoretical frameworks informing both. In line with the mandate of *Research in Film & History*, it points towards an area of methodological exploration where film history intersects with praxeological approaches in historical scholarship as well as with archaeological, anthropological, and ecological strains in recent media studies. On the level of the individual contribution, the emphasis on practice encourages bringing together in case studies an array of different historical sources – film segments, photographs, archival documents, and illustrated articles from educators' journals – drawing on the potential of the multimedia-versed online publication *Research in Film & History*.

Possible topics and focal points may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- teaching practices and how they incorporated the moving image, including changing standards and policies, as well as the specifics of different disciplines and fields of knowledge
- social, institutional, and economic histories of the moving image's use in different pedagogical settings (including schools and universities, as well as sites of popular education, consultation, or vocational training)
- case studies of individual formats, genres, and series of educational film and their implications, as well as combinations of film with other media for educational purposes
- the moving image's role in shaping, inflecting, or challenging pedagogical theories

Practical guidelines

We ask interested researchers to submit an abstract of max. 300 words, which clearly outlines a research question, relevance of the topic, a theoretical and/or historical framework, justification of research material and approach, and main argument. You can additionally name up to five reference works for your planned article. All submitted articles should be original work and must not be under consideration by other publications.

Please indicate if you prefer your contribution to be

- a full article (35.000 to 50.000 characters, excluding references and bibliography)
- or a short article (10.000 to 20.000 characters, excluding references and bibliography)

Please send your proposals to the editors of this issue: Katrin Pilz (katrin.pilz@history.lbg.ac.at) and Joachim Schätz (joachim.schaetz@univie.ac.at). Deadline: please hand in your abstract no later than **February 15, 2022**. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **March 7, 2022**.

Tentative timeline

The authors of the accepted abstracts will be invited to contribute an article.

- Abstract: February 15, 2022
- Notification of acceptance: March 7, 2022
- First version of accepted article: July 15, 2022
- Peer review: September 15, 2022
- Revised version of articles (after peer-review): November 15, 2022
- Publication issue January, 2023.

Research in Film and History is a peer-reviewed online journal edited and published by staff and postdoctoral researchers in Film and History at the University of Bremen, Germany.

Research in Film and History offers an international platform for cutting-edge debate, new approaches, and interdisciplinary perspectives on the intersection between film and history. The journal seeks submissions that explore thematic or methodological connections between the two disciplines through a theoretical, practical, or historical lens.

In order to make international debates and recent research available to a wider audience, *Research in Film and History* has a non-commercial open access policy. *Research in Film and History* complies with all digital publishing standards and is listed in DOAJ – The Directory of Open Access Journals.

Editors:

Katrin Pilz and Joachim Schätz – on behalf of the research project “Educational film practice in Austria, 1918–1970”, University of Vienna and Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (LBIDH), Vienna