

Filmmaking⁴Fieldwork

education & projects

Filmmaking for Research across the Disciplines

presented by CameraWise in collaboration with Filmmaking for Fieldwork - F₄F™

Dear social science researchers,

We would like to invite you to a comprehensive filmmaking course held at the newly opened **FMG MediaLab on the UvA campus**.

We have **seven funded spaces available** for researcher/filmmakers from across the faculty to attend the online Filmmaking for Fieldwork (F₄F) Summer School (June 8 and July 6, 2026) and take part in a three-day hands-on practical workshop at the UvA FMG MediaLab (June 30 - July 2). Participants attend Zoom-based sessions each Monday afternoon during the course, covering all the key stages in ethnographic film production, including developing a film proposal, ethics, camera, sound and editing. They are required to undertake a flexible load of independent study, depending on their requirements and availability and finally, spend one day filming, followed by a 2-day hands-on workshop on the UvA campus to learn how to edit and present their films.

ABOUT CAMERAWISE

CameraWise is a collective of researchers based at the FMG MediaLab on the UvA campus. We critically explore what the aesthetic, sensorial and emotive affordances of film can bring to the social sciences' intellectual journeys of discovery. We welcome all passionate researchers interested in exploring the possibilities in camera-based research. Find out more <https://visualanthropology.nl/>

ABOUT F₄F™

Filmmaking for Fieldwork - F₄F™ was established at Manchester University in the UK in 2009 to explore the potential for ethnographic and documentary film practice in cinema, teaching and research. F₄F is now affiliated with CameraWise at the University of Amsterdam and receives a diversity of projects and students from international relations, politics, fine art, sociology, geography, anthropology, history, development and the environmental humanities, town planning, midwifery and medicine, environmental and human rights activism, NGOs, film and television, UX, marketing and education. F₄F is a global initiative that favours work in local communities. We evaluate the viability of our taught courses and project work based on their carbon footprint, and we use online tools to support people from around the world to run their own education programmes and film productions.

<https://filmmakingforfieldwork.co.uk>

Our Summer School is designed to help people with upcoming documentary filmmaking projects and for those wanting a practical introduction to camera-based research. We use dedicated teaching websites, online

tools for remote learning, downloadable editing software and we teach you to use the equipment that you will take to the field, including smartphone technology. Along with a significant reduction in the cost compared to our location-based courses and a lowering of our contribution to climate change, we discovered that this online format also presented a more manageable way for participants to gain an overview of the project of ethnographic cinema (<https://filmmakingforfieldwork.co.uk/online-courses>).

For those wishing to continue their filmmaking journeys, we offer modularised one-to-one [Project Support](#). Our aim is to help develop local hubs of film practitioners that we can continue to support on a one-to-one or group basis in an environmentally sustainable way.

WHO CAN APPLY?

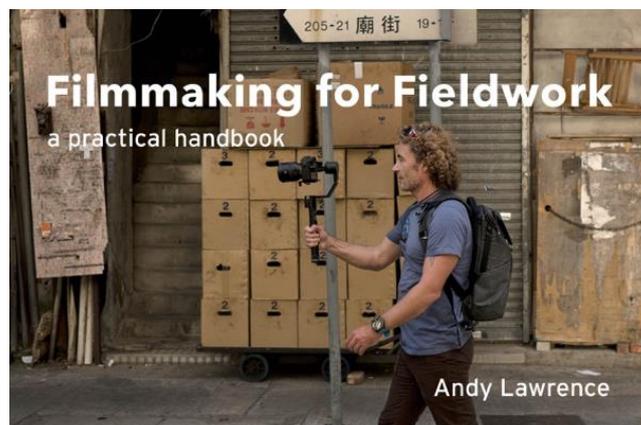
This course is open to all applicants across FMG with an interest in using filmmaking for academic research or documentary film production. No previous filmmaking experience is necessary.

The call for applications will be announced at the **opening of the FMG MediaLab and the CameraWise launch event in April** <https://visualanthropology.nl/film-festival>, to which prospective candidates are encouraged to attend. Participants are required to submit a 150-word (max) summary of their research interests, affiliations and motivation for exploring filmmaking as a method to info@filmmakingforfieldwork.co.uk.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Teaching includes practical and theoretical instruction in camera, sound, editing, ethics and approach for research and documentary filmmaking. Class-based interactive discussions, special film screenings with Q&A, and group tutorial sessions are spread across five weeks, with recorded synchronous sessions running between 14:00 - 17:30 (CEST) each Monday to accommodate participants from various time zones. Our dedicated F4F Summer School website contains course materials, films, background reading and instructional texts for each of the 10 Learning Units. We use Zoom for short flash-lectures and class-based interactive discussions and filmmaker Q&As. We have designed 12 Micro Tasks, aimed at embedding technical aspects of the course and 4 Practical Filmmaking Exercises, that mimic common fieldwork scenarios, to help consolidate your understanding of the learning units. Participants share the results of this work on Discord, where our tutors offer critique and comment, culminating in a one-to-one tutorial session, to help you apply what you have learnt in your own research and filmmaking. Each participant who has attended the main sessions receives a certificate of participation and is welcomed as an F4F and CameraWise alumni.

Also included is an online accessible digital eBook of *Filmmaking for fieldwork: A practical handbook* (see below) - essential reading for this course.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participants should ensure they have access to suitable hardware and an internet connection required to run Zoom software and access our training website. The practical filmmaking exercises are optional but recommended, as is the amount of web-based learning you undertake. Sessions are recorded for those wishing to engage with the course asynchronously. Students do not need their own camera, sound and editing facilities - a smartphone will suffice, but even this is not essential if you prefer to learn vicariously. Various editing Apps are available for free or paid download.

Once participants have been accepted onto the course, we send a private link to a preliminary Zoom meeting scheduled one week prior to the main teaching. During this meeting, we introduce our teachers, provide password access to the website and digital handbook, and share information about course integration and pedagogy. Participants have an opportunity to test their internet connection and practice with the Zoom software.