The history of ethnographic filmmaking is by its very nature permeated by contested knowledges and by a plurality of anthropological perspectives. From Rouch’s anthropologie partagée, and Gardner’s evocation of experience, to MacDougall’s and Taylor/Paravel’s sensorial-embodied filmmaking – the ways in which ethnographic ‘documentaries’ are dealing with and producing knowledge(s) are diverse and often controversial. Today the growing uses of media for intended misinformation, the possibilities of audio-visual deep fakes, and the claim of ‘alternative facts’ are fuelling a distrust in academic knowledge production and audio-visual documents alike. In times of national and global political polarizations and of an unprecedented human induced environmental crisis on the one hand, and of a trend toward highly scripted and dramatized documentary formats on the other, the question of who is speaking for whom and with what authority seems as pressing as the necessity for transcultural mediation.

For the upcoming GAA conference, we are assembling an accompanying program with films and panel discussions in which we intend to discuss film not only regarding individual topics and filmic styles, but also in a broader sense, regarding its general role and potential in (academic) knowledge production and public reach. In the film program we wish to reflect the conference theme in the following questions and topics:

- Films of/as Politics – how can and do films engage politically charged concepts like identity, gender, culture, or nature?
- ‘Non-fiction’ – assessing and reflecting facts and truths in ‘documentary’ film(making)
- Who’s talking? – who can speak about whom and how?
- Telling or experiencing – the role of sensory knowledge for approaching others’ life worlds
- Participation, Collaboration, Dialogue, Activist Research – knowledge production as shared experience among humans and beyond

We encourage submitters to not only hand in ethnographic films, but also other audio-visual forms and formats, like sound-pieces and video-essays. The films and other works will be screened during the conference in Munich, their presentation will be accompanied by roundtable discussions with the filmmakers.

The film program will run as part of the conference in synchronous time slots. In addition, all films/works shall be provided online via streaming, for participants to watch at their preferred time, and for panel organizers and participants to have the opportunity
to include excerpts of the selected films in other panels, while providing full-length versions online.

We will accept films and audio-visual works of any length and genre that were produced in 2021 or later. Student films and projects produced as part of ethnographic research are particularly welcome. All films will be carefully considered by a selection committee. Submitted films need to be in German or English or with German or English subtitles. Please include a short synopsis (200 words max.), CV, and information on the fieldwork and/or production context.

No submission fee is required. Films will be screened without a screening fee. Participation in the film program requires payment of the conference fee.

Submissions should be made until December 15th via E-Mail to miriam.remter@lmu.de

Organizers:
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In case of questions please contact miriam.remter@lmu.de