

Smoke Signal Projects / Open call for documentary topics



Open call for documentary topics: *Would your research make a great film?*

Deadline: August 14, 2015

Are you excited to see your research translated into a documentary film? Have you come across a story, an issue, a person or a place that should be shown to a broader audience? Are you interested in collaborating with an award-winning, independent documentary team? Please consider reaching out to us!

Who are we?

Smoke Signal Projects is an international documentary film collective, co-founded by filmmakers Ursula Engel, Sameer Farooq and Stijn Deklerck. Our team is based in Canada, Holland and Belgium, though our topics span the globe. Our work provides in-depth coverage of a subject beyond short-form news reporting. We see documentary making as a collaborative endeavour, in which ample space is given to the ways through which a story emerges through on-location research. Strongly independent, our previous films have been funded largely by public funds, making it possible to remain close to our own ethics and artistic vision. Click below to see some of our recent projects:

The Silk Road of Pop

www.silkroadofpop.com

I Want to Grow Old in China

www.smokesignalprojects.org/project_i_want_to.html

What are we looking for?

We are currently looking for enthusiastic scholars who want to cooperate with us on new documentary ideas.

We believe in the potential of collaborating with the academic community, illuminating their research into films in order to reach a broader public.

We are open to all kind of proposals, though generally work with ideas in the social sciences and humanities. We are open to stories from all around the world. Please feel free to surprise us! We're excited to work on a story that we can't even imagine and believe that great documentaries start with great research.

What can you expect from us?

- All ideas we receive will be ensured strict confidentiality.
- We will make a decision on which topic to pursue by September 15, 2015.
- After our initial selection, we will initiate discussions with the selected researcher on how to collaborate on the project. We are open to different forms of collaboration depending on the topic and how you would like to be involved. From there, we will go into script writing, fundraising, production, post-production and distribution.
- We take great care in protecting our documentary subjects, ensuring their safety also after the documentary is completed.
- We have extensive experience working with targeted audience engagement schemes to inspire people with our films. These include grassroots screening initiatives, collaborations with NGOs, embassies, universities, museums, art galleries, and others.
- Please note, as we are a registered non-profit organization, there will be no income generated from this process. However, depending on your level of involvement, we will include payment for your work on the production of the film in our funding applications. The researcher will be fully credited and will be able to use the final work as a tool to support their educational mandate.

How do I apply?

Please send us the following information (max 500 words) to **smokesignalprojects@gmail.com** by **August 14, 2015**:

1. A short introduction about yourself.
2. A short abstract of your research.
3. Why would your research lend itself to a documentary?

We look forward to hearing from you!

Ursula Engel
Sameer Farooq
Stijn Deklerck

smoke signal
projects

Smoke Signal Projects
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