

Sam Liebmann CV

Producer/ Director

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Nationalities: German & British

PROFILE

Documentary director-producer and participatory filmmaker with more than 15 years experience working in a diverse international context and with a focus on representing and collaborating with marginalised groups.

FILM

Participatory Filmmaker, University of Bristol/ MMPPF - 2022-present

VOICES FROM IPSWICH. Participatory filmmaking project working with Professor Julia O'Connell Davidson and her team on the project, Modern Marronage, the Pursuit and Practise of Freedom in the Contemporary World (MMPPF) to produce films and build filmmaking skills with research participants who've arrived in the UK seeking asylum.

I co-directed together with the research participants the short documentary film, *Voices from Ipswich*, which thematises the young people's experiences and realities of navigating the asylum system in the UK. With the same group, we are currently creating three short films that explore and challenge normative assumptions on Modern Slavery as part of an AHRC Impact Acceleration grant on 'Changing the Modern Slavery Narrative'.

Producer, Deutsche Welle, Germany - 2023

HELP FOR HAWA. I created the idea and then produced this short report in collaboration with my colleagues in Sierra Leone about diabetes and the lack of access to insulin. Directed by Chernor Justice Thoronka, from Apex Multimedia, a cooperative in Sierra Leone.

Director/ Producer, Met Film - 2018-present

THE BAREFOOT LAWYERS OF SIERRA LEONE. A Sundance-funded documentary with co-director and executive producer Jerry Rothwell about a group of paralegals trying to make law more accessible in Sierra Leone.

Producer, BBC Africa Eye - 2022

KUSH: INTO THE MAD WORLD. A 25-minute investigation into the effects of a drug destroying lives in Sierra Leone.

Co-director, Black Leaf/ Al Jazeera - 2022

VOICES OF SURVIVAL. Part of First Nations series, a 25-minute documentary about indigenous groups using traditional methods to fight back against some of the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

Producer, BBC Africa Eye - July 2020-February 2021

LADY P AND THE SEX WORK SISTERHOOD OF SIERRA LEONE. A 52-minute investigation into the rights of sex workers in Sierra Leone.

Producer/ Editor, BBC Africa Eye - 2020-2021

WAHALA: CORONAVIRUS IN SIERRA LEONE. A six-part series of short documentaries about how Covid19 impacted the lives of people in a small city in Sierra Leone.

Director/ camera, Black Leaf/ Al Jazeera Witness - 2019

THE HUSBAND SCHOOL. A Sierra Leonian project advocating gender equality through educating men of all ages. Television Documentary Award Special mention 2020.

Producer/ Editor, BBC Africa Eye - 2019

STANDING AMONG THE LIVING. Filmed over two years inside a Sierra Leonean town during the Ebola crisis, this documentary tells a story of this tragic period but also of other unrecorded histories in the country. Selected for Miami Film Festival 2019.

Director/ camera/ editor, VSO - 2018

THE HUSBAND SCHOOL (SHORT). A film about training men in Sierra Leone about gender equality. Winner of Best Short Film at the SDGs in Action Film Festival at the United Nations High-level Political Forum 2018.

Producer/ director/ camera/ editor - 2009-18

MORE EARTH WILL FALL. (VAIR CAIR MAIS TERRA). Filmed over seven years inside one of Brazil's largest favelas, the story of a family who migrate to Rio de Janeiro to realise a simple dream - and the struggles they face caught in the violence and inequality. Officially selected for Athens Ethnofest 2018, Ethnografilm Paris 2019, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2019, Frames of Mind Vancouver 2019. I also coordinated the film's Impact and Outreach Screening Tour in Brazil.

Producer/ director/ camera/ editor - 2009

VOICES ACROSS THE WALL. Officially selected for London International Documentary Festival 2009, it explores the Israel-Palestine conflict through the stories of people on the ground.

INVITED LECTURES/ TALKS

Guest speaker and book chapter, UPG-EDU, Peru - July 2023

Lecture on 'Ethics in documentary practise'. 1-hour talk in Spanish with Q and A. Part of the Webinar series, Holistic, Qualitative Research: Advice and coordination of study groups and research. Book chapter to be published 2024.

Cube Cinema Bristol, short talk on ethics in documentary - 2022

Talk + Q&A about the ethical dilemmas in practise working with contributors in documentary.

Guest speaker, UGEL-Unidad de Gestión Educativa Local Ica, Peru - 2020

Lecture on 'Documentary, Visual Anthropology and Diversity in Education'. A 45-minute lecture in Spanish with Q & A on how film can be used as a powerful educational resource in developing countries and poorer parts of the world. Book chapter published in 2021.

Speaker, Big Cities-Small Changes, British Academy of the Arts and Humanities - 2018
Short talk and screening focussed on filmmaking and urban violence in Brazil.

TEACHING

Production tutor, Four Corners Film and Photography Centre - 2022-23

Tutor for 1-month courses practical introduction to film production. One day course on Practical Documentary Making and Ethics.

Short course/ Documentary making and Ethics, City & Islington college - 2022

12-hour course about ethical challenges and practical solutions documentaries.

Film workshop facilitator, Mouth That Roars and BFI Academy - 2017-2021

Facilitating groups of young students in making films on a variety of topics.

Training co-ordinator/ producer, Purple Field Prod, UK/ Sierra Leone - 2013-18

Co-ordinating five-year training programme for Future View Media Center, a group of filmmakers in Sierra Leone. Coordinating UK professional trainers overseas to work with the group on educational films. Working in Sierra Leone with FVMC on several training productions including about sustainable agriculture and disability awareness. Running online workshops during the Ebola epidemic. I have worked with FVMC on several commissioned projects, including for BBC Africa Eye, Al Jazeera and Deutsche Welle.

Training co-ordinator/ producer, Cursinho Martin Luther King, Brazil - 2018

Co-ordinating a two week participatory film project, which involved training young people in a São Paulo favela. The film produced by the young people joined onto More Earth Will Fall's tour and was screened in the same session as More Earth Will Fall in cinemas and universities.

PUBLICATIONS

UGEL-Unidad de Gestión Educativa Local Ica, Peru - 2020

Book chapter on 'Documentary, Visual Anthropology and Diversity in Education' published in, 'Ciencia Holística en Educación Frente a la Globalización' (Holistic Science in Education in the Face of Globalisation).

Journal of Qualitative Research in Sport Studies - 2007

'Football for Peace? Bringing Jews and Arabs together in Northern Israel'. Co-writer with Professor Joel Rookwood, University College Dublin.

EDUCATION

MA Israeli Studies. Merit. University of London, SOAS, UK, 2014 - 2017

BA Sport Journalism. 2:1 University of Brighton, UK, 2003 - 2006

LANGUAGES

English (native), Brazilian Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (fluent), German (conversational), Sierra Leonean Krio (conversational), Arabic (basic).