



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Not Quite Hollywood: Participatory Ethnographic Film, Local Aesthetics, No Budget

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11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Cornett Building, Room A225

Documentary film is fast becoming a powerful means to communicate local issues to broader audiences of policy makers and planners. Participatory ethnographic film - where the participants and film-maker work collaboratively to tell their story - often requires significant compromises in film-making due to budgetary and logistical issues. Further, when local aesthetics are taken into consideration, the evaluation of the final product is often based on criteria quite different from that of the for-profit and cinematic-distribution types of films currently dominating ethnographic film festivals. This presentation documents the film-making process with a group of Q'eqchi' Maya healers as it moves from conception to "world premiere" in a rustic, thatch-roofed bar in southern Belize. Ultimately, the main criteria of evaluation used by the healers who participated, who authorized its public distribution, was simply, did we get it right?

EVERYONE WELCOME.