



Challenging the Narrative

Documentary Film as Participatory Practice in Conflict Situations By Cahal McLaughlin

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Addresses the need to create platforms for survivors of political violence to tell their stories in order to challenge marginalizing narratives and injustices, as well as a form of public acknowledgement and personal healing.

Drawing on his experiences directing films in Ireland, Haiti, Brazil and South Africa, McLaughlin reflects on the potential of documentary film to provide a platform for those who have experienced political violence to challenge dominant narratives that marginalises them, and that offers potential for personal and public healing. Using participatory methodologies, each case study analyses conditions of production, political context, participatory potential, and impact of the films on both survivors and the general public. Challenges are addressed and lessons suggested for similar projects in the areas of documentary film, transitional justice, participatory ethnography and political activism.

Readership

Interdisciplinary academic studies, including documentary film, transitional justice, participatory practices, memory studies, and oral history; professional, community and activist filmmakers.

Contents

List of Figures; Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1 Practice as Research; 2. Prisons Memory Archive; 3. It Stays with You; 4. Right Now I Want to Scream; 5. We Never Gave Up; Conclusion; References; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Cahal McLaughlin is Professor of Film Studies at Queen's University Belfast and Director of the Prisons Memory Archive (www.prisonsmemoryarchive.com)

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