

Husband and Wife

Migration, documentary film, and female interiority

Documentary Film: 36 minutes, 46 seconds

Dr Matthew Hawkins

EST 1892 **LSBU**

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2. Description

Husband and Wife is a documentary film concerning one woman's journey from Poland to London, England to reclaim the body and the dignity of her husband after his death. The film was shot over a period of 1 year with a two-person crew.

The film was co-directed by long term filmmaking team, Matthew Hawkins and Marta Hawkins.

Cinematography – Matthew Hawkins.

Editing and colour grade – Matthew Hawkins.

Film Screening and Keynote presentation: Creative Bodies, Creative Minds conference, Gratz, Austria.

Shortlisted: British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies (BAFTSS) best Audiovisual Practice-Research (winner announced April 2021).

Special screening: London Migration Film Festival, and was under discussion at the Voyeurism in Documentary Filmmaking on Migration event at University of Westminster.

Invited Exhibition: Spotkanie Filmowa, at Opt-Art, Wroclaw, Poland.

Nominated for the Jury and Audience prize in the European Competition for documentary film at Szczecin Film Festival, Poland.

3. 300 Word Statement

The documentary applies methods developed during the author's PhD in retaliation to narrative filmmaking and role of affective tonality in producing a cinematic narrative. These methods are applied and tested in a documentary format for the first time. The methodological approach derives from Lucy Bolton's mobilisation of Luce Irigaray's work on female interiority, taken from fiction film and applied to documentary practice.

The work applies a novel approach to the creation of a filmic, affectual interiority. Concepts drawn from the area of film-philosophy, and feminist film studies, traditionally used in the analysis of fiction films, were used in the production process of documentary practice, thus creating new forms of knowledge in relation to both the production and analysis of documentary forms. The film applies a structure derived from Sophocles' play *Antigone*, order to draw out the allegorical nature of the protagonist's journey, process of grieving, dealing with bureaucracy, government and patriarchal structures; two women and two stories; Antigone, a mythical Theban woman, battles the verdict of the king, Creon, to secure a decent burial for her brother, Polyneices. Beata, a widowed woman from a small Polish city, battles bureaucracy to secure a decent burial for her husband.

Through the production, the directors developed the concept of filmiation, as detailed in the paper, 'Antigone in the London Office: documentary film, creativity and female agency' (Cultural Studies, forthcoming). Filmiation is the creative act of the filmmaking process, which creates a space where the life of the characters and the life of the camera merge. This creative, feminist space is what the directors term, filmiation, and we regard it as a space of mutual influence between themselves, the protagonist and the documentary film.

The work is one of few documentary films to explicitly address affective interiority, whilst mobilising an Irigarayan/Boltonian theoretical framework.

4. Film Extracts 10:46

<https://vimeo.com/424525754>

5. Whole Film 36:46

<https://vimeo.com/473103589/75608496ea>

6. Supporting Documentation

FH | JOANNEUM
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Creative Bodies—Creative Minds

An international, interdisciplinary conference



26th – 27th March 2018
University of Graz, RESOWI-Zentrum
Universitätsstraße 15, 8010 Graz, Austria

Keynote speakers: **Emma Rees** (University of Chester), **Marta Hawkins** (University of Plymouth) and **Matthew Hawkins** (London South Bank University)

Conference English Committee: Libora Daria Intranzi and Jana Miksa (both Sociology of Gender section, Department of Sociology, University of Graz), Susanne Sackl-Schiff (FH JOANNEUM - University of Applied Sciences Graz, Salzburg Campus and Burgenland Campus) (both Graz University of Technology)

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Film Screening and Keynote presentation:
Creative Bodies, Creative Minds conference, Graz, Austria.

WWW.OPT-ART.NET
OŚRODEK PÓSTAW TWÓRCZYCH,
UL. DZIAŁKOWA 15, WROCŁAW



09.02.2019 GODZ. 19:00 WSTĘP WOLNY OPT

SPOTKANIE FILMOWE

+ PANEL DYSKUSYJNY Z REŻYSERAMI

poprowadzi psycholog Anna Zabrodzka



HUSBAND AND WIFE

reż. M+M Hawkins 37 min., 2018

ECHOES / POGŁOSY

reż. Maciej Piątek 21 min., 2018

#ZDROWIE PSYCHICZNE #EMIGRACJA #BREXIT #TOŻSAMOŚĆ

Invited Exhibition: *Spotkanie Filmowa*, at Opt-Art, Wrocław, Poland.



Special screening: *London Migration Film Festival*



The Personal is Political: How Polish women negotiate the price of migration + Q&A

Deptford Cinema, Sun 2 Dec, 2:30pm [Tickets here](#)

This double bill and panel discussion offers two observational documentaries exploring everyday struggles of two Polish women in London. Violetta lives in shared accommodation with her adopted friends, lovers and family. Beata has travelled to London to collect her husband's ashes and achieve closure on a traumatic period of her life.

Following the films there will be a panel with: the protagonists of the film, directors M+M Hawkins, Candida Yates (Professor of Culture and Communication, Bournemouth University), Dr. Kathy Burrell (expert on Polish Migration, University of Liverpool), and Dr. Elena Marchevska (Senior Lecturer in Drama and Performance, LSBU)

<https://www.migrationcollective.com/lmff-2018-programme>

Accessed 17th May 2020

Voyeurism in documentary portrayals of migration

**02.12.2018 Migration Museum
as part of the London Migration Film Festival**

**27.02.2019 University of Westminster
as part of the Difference Festival**

Using the Long-Table format, an interactive and participatory discussion platform conceived by Lois Weaver, we explored our position as storytellers, curators and media consumers. The event explored the responsibilities of those who create visual narratives based on another's experience of migration. Filmmakers, protagonists, academics, professionals and also viewers came together to discuss this topic. The event was very popular, taking place at both the Migration Film Festival and the Difference Festival.

<https://alternative-fictions.com/events.php>

Accessed 17th May 2020

Every year, BAFTSS recognises excellence in published and practice work by members of the association. Full details of previous winners in all categories are available from the dropdown menu on this page

The 2021 awards are for work published in the period between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, and are decided by members of the BAFTSS executive committee.

The shortlists for each category are as follows (listed alphabetically). The winners will be announced during the BAFTSS conference in April 2021.

There are two categories of awards: the **BAFTSS Practice Research Awards** and the **BAFTSS Publication Awards**.

PRACTICE RESEARCH AWARDS

Audiovisual Practice-Research (e.g. original film/TV/video/moving image/screen media practice)

- M+M Hawkins (London South Bank University), *Husband and Wife*
- Adam Laity (University of the West of England), *A Short Film About Ice: Cinematographic Approaches Towards the Eco-sublime Landscape – a Practice-Led Enquiry*
- Roz Mortimer (University for the Creative Arts, PhD candidate at University of Westminster), *The Deathless Woman*

<https://www.baftss.org/awards>

Accessed 28th February 2021