

Audiovisual Essays – Guidelines for Contributors

Illuminace is inviting submissions for practice-based research on film and moving-image media. We believe that audiovisual essays (also called videographic essays or video essays) and other forms of scholarship that examine cinema and audiovisual culture *with* and *through* moving images and sounds deserve their place in the scientific discourse next to written research outputs. We feel strongly that our function is to provide an opportunity for audiovisual essays to undergo the equivalent rigorous peer-review process to that of traditional publication, and fully understand contributors' need to evidence the impact and significance of their practice as research. *Illuminace* follows the example of existing peer-reviewed journals for audiovisual essays and practice-based research, yet attempts to establish these practices in the context of East-Central European film and media studies.

Each submission must include the following:

1. A link to a **video file** that must be uploaded to [Vimeo](#) or [YouTube](#). Set the video to unlisted or password protected, and give permission for the video to be downloaded. The audiovisual essay should contain no identifying credits attached to the work. If accepted, these credits will need to be added before publication. There are no length requirements, but the video must demonstrate that it generates new knowledge about its subject, or about film/media studies and related fields, through its audiovisual form. The audiovisual essay must not be merely an illustration of a written argument, a flashy YouTube supercut, or a work of a strictly poetic nature – it has to provide analytical insight and highlight the importance of working with moving images and sounds to achieve it.
2. A **written statement** (1000–2500 words, including footnotes and bibliography) that outlines Research Questions, Context, Methods, Outcomes, and Impact. However, we also welcome the development of alternative ways of writing that can produce new knowledge, research contexts, and rigor in relation to the video – as long as they clearly identify the research in your submission. Please refer to our [style guide](#) before submitting.
3. An **extra document** with basic information:
 - Institutional affiliation
 - English abstract (250 words)
 - Author bio (150 words)
 - Five keywords

The audiovisual essay should not be under consideration for academic peer-reviewed publication elsewhere. Works that have circulated elsewhere (such as on video-sharing sites or festivals) can be

considered, but they should not have already been included in an academic publication. Similarly, works by producers who are non-academics are welcome as well, but these will be evaluated according to the same standards of creativity and scholarship as those by academics.

All audiovisual works submitted to *Illuminace* undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and refereeing by at least two anonymous referees. Typically, one reviewer will be selected from the community of videographic scholars or practice-based research experts, and the other will be a specialist in the subject matter that the audiovisual work covers. In line with our [peer review guidelines](#), the referees will have the choice of:

- a) accepting the submission as is;
- b) recommending minor revisions (either to the video, the statement, or both);
- c) recommending major revisions (either to the video, the statement, or both);
- d) rejecting the submission.

The submission is published as soon as it is ready – either in an upcoming issue or in an ahead-of-print regime if necessary. *Illuminace* will publish the video and the written statement together. There are no article processing charges.

Contributors take full responsibility for ensuring that their submissions adhere to copyright rules in the Czech Republic and the European Union. Each video should include the phrase “**For study purposes only.**”

For more information on audiovisual essays and videographic film studies, you can consult these sources:

[The Videographic Essay: Practice and Pedagogy](#)
[Introductory Guide to Video Essays](#)