

## **Proposal for CIDOC2018 Cultural Conference Centre of Heraklion**

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### **Title**

*Documentary filmmaking: reflections on ethics and integrity*

### **Abstract**

Documentary film is an expressive art which aims at exposing social and cultural topics or presenting factual stories while at the same time merges with media imperatives such as the need to win the audience and entertain. Though documentary filmmakers engage in many different activities, they share a common goal, that of advancing knowledge. To that extent, it can be argued that documentary filmmakers partake in the endeavors of science and research. Codes of professional and research ethics and guidelines on research integrity are becoming increasingly important in all aspects of research and documentation. Such codes and guidelines provide the ethical and integrity framework within which researchers (and professionals as the case may be) can identify and address the ethical challenges emerging in the course of their research and/or work. Nevertheless, research and practice have consistently shown that the ethics challenges raises and the solutions available are contextually situated. The difference in power between filmmakers and their subjects can often be best measured by the strategies used to expose their personal stories and their relative access to the means of representation. With reference to different case studies and practices in documentary filmmaking, this presentation aims to highlight the difficulties and the challenges that surface when different perspectives and instances have to be met. Can there be an ethical code of practice when personal narratives, documentation imperatives and artistic practices have to be respected? Juxtaposing, standards of ethical research performance in scientific and visual disciplines and in respect to documentary filmmaking we will reflect on a set of guidelines for the formulation of a code of ethics in the arts.