



Video Essays in Rural History

History is on everyone's lips. Museums, commemorative events and autobiographies are more popular than ever. But historical findings deriving from scientific research hardly find their way into the media and contemporary political debates anymore. And historians who do take part in public debates are often reduced to their status as “experts of the past”. While the reasons for these developments are complex, they are obviously also due to the fact that texts have lost a lot of their importance as forms of communication at the expense of images, especially moving images. When films become a dominant form of communication in the daily life of most people, historians cannot ignore the medium any longer when it comes to the communication of their insights.

The aim of the series *Video Essays in Rural History* is to communicate knowledge gained from historical research based on written and audio-visual sources in the form of video essays. It intends to stimulate interdisciplinary exchange and to encourage scholarly cross-fertilisation that is crucial for understanding the past and present of rural societies.

The series *Video Essays in Rural History* is part of a wider research and archival infrastructure of the Archives of Rural History (ARH) and the European Rural History Film Association (ERHFA), which consists namely of a *Database* and an *Online Portal* (www.ruralfilms.eu).

What is a Video Essay in Rural History?

A video essay in rural history is an independent form of communicating historical knowledge on all matters relating to rural history broadly understood. It adds new dimensions to a specific historical insight and advances a thesis or argument by using the potentials and possibilities of visual sources and moving images. Since the format of a video essay is not meant to replace, but to complement and amend written texts, each video essay in this series is accompanied by an accompanying text containing the script, references and indications for further reading. The video essay and the abstract are published simultaneously online.

Submission of Proposals and Reviewing Process

Proposals for video essays should be between 300 and 400 words long. They include a brief description a) of the topic, b) the sources to be analysed and used and c) biographical information on the author(s).

The proposals are to be sent to the Editorial Board: info@ruralfilms.eu

If the Editorial Board accepts the proposal in principal, the author(s) are invited to produce the video essay. They have to take notice of the following conditions and procedures: Video essays to be published in the ARH/ERHFA series shall not be shorter than 5 and not longer than 25 minutes. In order to support transnational exchanges, the language of the video essay shall be English. However, we welcome submissions in other languages as well if they contain English subtitles. All video essays submitted must be accompanied by a document which contains:

- a) a written abstract of between 120 and 200 words
- b) the text of the script or the story-board of the video essay
- c) a bibliography, a filmography and a list of the sources used in the making of the video essay
- d) notes for further reading

Submissions which fulfil the formal criteria are reviewed in a double blind review process and, if accepted, published in the series *Video Essays in Rural History* on the website www.ruralfilms.eu.