

## Panel A2

Sala delle Colonne 1

### Women in Animation: The Contemporary International Context



#### Samantha Moore

#### Animated Spaces: independent female animators and the spaces they work in

Using the author's 2004 film \*\*\*\*\* (itself based on Mary Kelly's *Post-Partum Document* 1973-9) as a starting point, *Animated Spaces* looks at the ways that independent animation female directors carve out spaces to work in; both literal and figural.

Woolf argued in *A Room of One's Own* (6: 1928) that 'a woman must have money and a room of one's own if she is to write fiction'. Money here represents power and freedom; an animator must have money, a commission (and she must be taken seriously as a director in order to get commissioned), child care and time (always time), as well as the elusive 'room'. The room is for many contemporary animators a snatched, repurposed area – the box room (Samantha Moore), an underused bathroom (Lizzy Hobbs), an attic space (Ellie Land). This paper will look at contemporary independent animation practice and how the spaces available to women animators affects the amount and type of animated work produced.

Jane Austen famously described her own work as a 'little bit (two inches wide) of ivory on which I work with so fine a brush, as produces little effect after much labour' (letter to her nephew, 1816) and as an independent animation director I wonder if the space I carve out to animate within affects the scale and scope of the work I produce. This paper will investigate this question using contemporary case studies and interviews.

#### Biography

Samantha Moore is an international award winning animated documentary maker. Amongst her awards is one 'for Scientific Merit' from the journal *Nature* (Imagine Science Film Festival, New York, 2010). Her most recent film *Loop* (an Animate Projects commission funded by the Wellcome Trust, 2016) has screened internationally at festivals and venues and most recently won a prize at RawScience festival, LA (2016).

Sam is passionate about the ability of animation to convey reality in new and surprising ways and has a Ph.D. (2015), about the way animation can be used to document perceptual brain states, such as phantom limb syndrome and prosopagnosia.

She has made several international award winning short animated documentaries animated, including; *Success with Sweet Peas* (2003), *doubled up* (2004), *The Beloved Ones* (2007), *An Eyeful of Sound* (2010), *Shadow Stories* (2013), and *Loop* (2016).

Samantha is a senior lecturer in animation at the University of Wolverhampton and the co-author of *Fundamentals of Animation* (2<sup>nd</sup>ed) with Paul Wells (Bloomsbury, 2016).