

## Panel H2

Sala delle Colonne 1

### Science and Animation I

**Alys Scott-Hawkins**

#### Hysteria – An Examination



In 2001 I made a two minute film, Hysteria, as a first year project on the MA Animation course at the Royal College of Art. Given as a starting point, the word ‘bedlam’, I researched the history of mental health care and discovered documentation of medical practices in the late 1800s of clitoridectomy and genital massage as a ‘cure’ for the condition of hysteria.

Unlike more formal art/science collaborations which are conversations between scientist and artist, this process was more of a singular, insular, journey, a stream-of-consciousness voyage of discovery: uncovering and collating material and then interpreting it through visual experimentation.

In this paper I wish to examine my approach of responding to factual material in this way. Key to my process was use of a sketchbook which became a space for montage: juxtaposing material from contemporary sources against archive documents and incorporating research material into my visual experimentation.

At the early stages of my research journey, and keen to develop my practice within a research context, this paper is a development from ‘A letter to my project’ (presented at the SAS conference in July 2015). Building on the personal narrative used in that presentation of my relationship with a troublesome project; in this paper I will approach my analysis using autoethnography as a method.

#### Biography

Alys is an artist and animation director who works with drawing and documentary. Her short films have been screened at more than 30 international film festivals, won several awards, and been featured in DVD and print publications.

Since completing an MA in Animation at the Royal College of Art in 2002, and a ‘3 Minute Wonder’ commission for Channel 4 Television broadcast in 2005, Alys has worked freelance and as an independent director and producer of short animated documentary films, for clients such as mental health charity Rethink, financial services firms BDO & PwC, local authorities and the NHS.

With Ellie Land, Alys founded the AnimatedDocumentary.com blog, a searchable resource of films, news and events, which she continues to curate. This has led to an invitation to participate in a panel event at DOK Leipzig, and programming the animated documentary strand of the touring Move It screenings, for Animate Projects.

In 2015 Alys took up a full time post teaching on the MA and BA (Hons) Animation Production courses at Arts University Bournemouth. In this role she is constructing a reflective and analytical appraisal of her existing work as she develops her practice-based research in animated documentary, in an academic context.

Portfolio: [alysscotthawkins.co.uk](http://alysscotthawkins.co.uk)

Hysteria: [vimeo.com/48365629](https://vimeo.com/48365629)

**Contact details:**

[ascotthawkins@aub.ac.uk](mailto:ascotthawkins@aub.ac.uk)

+44 7947 068174