

## **Making nearby? On teaching and unlearning women's filmmaking through the audiovisual essay**

**Catherine Grant**

---

I have been trying to teach women's filmmaking for exactly thirty years. But I have probably learned and unlearned more about it in the last of these decades than in the first two. In this latter period, my research and pedagogy have been focused almost exclusively on the scholarly methodological potential of the found-footage-based digital audiovisual essay. In my contribution to this very welcome conference on Teaching Women's Filmmaking, after critically reflecting on my positionality as a feminist film scholar, I will explore some of the learning and unlearning that have formed part of my creative critical process as an audiovisual essayist. I will attempt to set out how audiovisual making-based approaches to teaching women's filmmaking may open up valuable, defamiliarising ways for us, as researchers and pedagogues, to endeavour to speak - or make - nearby\* (or nearer by) the creative audiovisual work of women and other people of marginalized gender identities.

*\*Following Trinh Minh-ha*