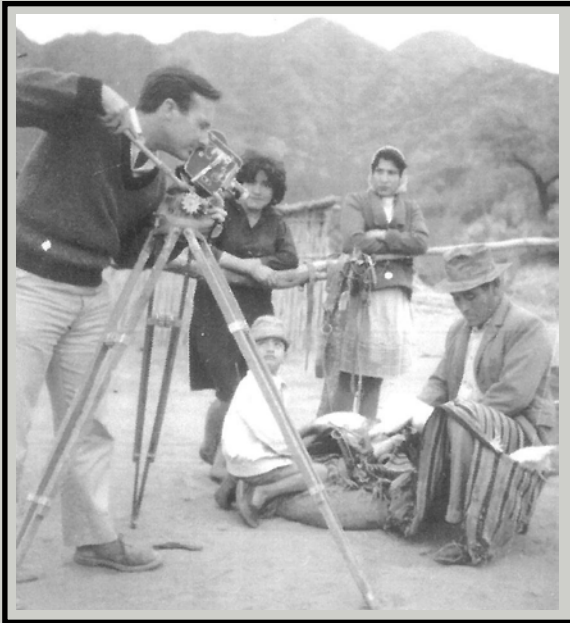


RECOVERING VOICES

Seminar Series in Endangered Languages and Indigenous Knowledge



Christopher Moore
Ph.D. candidate in History,
Indiana University

presents:

**Politics of Ethnographic Film:
Jorge Prelorán and the case of
Valle Fértil (1965-1972)**

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 12:00-1:00pm
Cooper Room (E-207A), NMNH

Abstract: Jorge Prelorán's experiences directing and distributing his 1972 ethnographic documentary *Valle Fértil* force us to reconsider what we regard as the significance of documentary. Far too often the historiography of documentary cinema rests either on director biographies, wherein an auteur's political allegiances define their work, or on textual analysis of the final cut, wherein we isolate finished products from the history of their making. The case of *Valle Fértil* suggests instead that the localized, personal interactions inherent to production and distribution provide for an equally relevant legacy of the filmmaking experience. Given that other documentaries at this time were similarly predicated on sustained contact with select populations, other filmmakers might then likewise be analyzed through such a lens. For this reason, Jorge Prelorán, so often seen as unique or as a counter-example in the history of Argentine film, becomes rather exemplary.

Bio: Christopher Moore, a Ph.D. candidate in History, documentary filmmaker, and research fellow with the Smithsonian's Human Studies Film Archives will discuss his research in the HSFA's Prelorán Collection and his efforts to bring Prelorán's films, including *Valle Fértil*, back to the Argentine villages in which they had originally been produced.

For more information or to request a visitor badge contact RecoveringVoices@si.edu.



An initiative by the National Museum of Natural History,
in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian
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Recovering Voices
Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
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