TERMS OF INTIMACY
USA/9 mins.
Director: MELISSA LANGER
In a suburban strip mall in California, the first retail location selling platonic touch opened in February, 2014. This experimental documentary provides a glimpse into the emerging industry of professional cuddling and the lives of the clients that use this service.

MATRIMONY
USA/78 mins.
Director: GREG SCOTT
This observational film chronicles the daily lives of Diablo Steve and Sapphire Pam, a homeless and heroin dependent married couple. Beginning with a brief wedding anniversary celebration, the camera follows the couple as they go about their normal daily routine, which includes a visit to a ‘shooting gallery’ where they inject their ‘medicine’, plying their panhandling ‘hustle’ at a busy intersection, and finally securing space at a homeless shelter, where they attempt to get some relief in a momentary and fleeting semblance of ‘home.’

THE REAL ENEMY
USA/20 mins.
Director: TATE JAMES
On September 21st, 2014, a group of self proclaimed devil worshipers held a public ‘Black Mass’ in Oklahoma city. It makes international news when the local Archbishop threatens to sue to get back an allegedly stolen, blessed communion wafer to be used in the event. The controversy is only heightened as the city owned event center refuses to cancel the event. The Real Enemy follows along as the devil worshippers, opposing Satanists, Christian exorcists, protesters, city officials and the media prepare for the unholy event, providing an inside look into contemporary and alternative spiritualities of the Bible Belt.

TURNING SEVENTEEN
Czech/12 mins.
Director: PETR N USKA
Dominika lives with her grandmother in the small Czech town of Zlutice. We meet her at a family party on the day she turns 17. The next day, while she prepares herself for the usual Saturday trip to the disco, her grandma narrates the story of growing up and becoming a woman. The tension between being dependent and yearning for freedom is softened by close family ties and mutual care.
ethnografilm asia 2015

The second Ethnografilm is a moment to cherish for filmmakers, scholars, and all those who brought this diverse group here. The Society for Social Studies of Science and the International Social Science Council have been instrumental in implementing the vision of a festival to celebrate excellence in movies that enhance our understanding of the social world.

Ethnographic film - "ethnografilm" in Greg Scott's coinage - has been broadly defined for the 2015 festival, yielding a huge variety of styles, formats, and themes. Most important, we have a community of filmmakers and scholars gathered for present inspiration and collaborations yet to come. What could be better?

Wesley Shrum
Executive Director
WESLEY SHRUM
Louisiana State University

Gregory Scott
Associate Director
DePaul University

Mathieu Denis
Festival Manager

Susan Arnold
Lucas Castle
Simon Baxter
Luke Driskell
Jewell Simon
Shannon Jinadasa
Ariadne Baskin

COMPANIONS: Lessons from Gay Mormon Missionaries
Utah/11 mins.
Director: JUAN ANTONIO TRUJILLO
Missionary work is one of the most widely recognized features of the Mormon faith, a religion also known for its decades long involvement in anti gay politics. Companions explores the two-year mission experience through the eyes of gay ex Mormon men as they reflect on the inevitable collision between their authentic selves and the values of the institution they were representing.

CONGO SUPER 8
Congo/9 mins.
Director: LESLEY BRAUN
Filmed in Kinshasa’s velodrome, an old Belgian colonial motorcycle racetrack, Congo Super8 showcases two folkloric dance troupes. Originally shot on super 8 film, the visuals pander to out nostalgia for old fashioned ethnographic films, while disrupting historical frames of reference. My choice to overlay the film with a computerized reading of James Clifford’s canonized text ‘The Predicament of Culture’ is intended to problematize older pedagogical classroom methods.

HOTEL-22
USA/8 mins.
Director: ELIZABETH LO
Each night in Silicon Valley, the Line 22 transforms from a public city bus into an unofficial shelter for the homeless in one of the richest parts of the world.

LIGHT YEARS
USA/6 mins.
Directors: WES SHRUM & GREG SCOTT
Since the beginning of modern cinema, viewers and critics alike have been transfixed by light contrasted with darkness. This interplay of light and dark was typical of film noir, a metaphor of good and evil in plots that featured crime, detectives, and mystery. We celebrate this genre through a salute to Augustin Jean Fresnel, the inventor of a lens for lighthouses that was later used for movie and theatre lighting. Light Years features serial murder and a star studded group of suspects over a half century of film. Whodunnit? Ultimately, we learn that the Fatal Fresnel Lens has incinerated five cameras that recorded their own demise.

MARDISTAN (MACHOLAND)
India/27 mins.
Director: HARJANT GILL
Mardistan (Macholand) explores what it means to be a man in India, a nation increasingly defined by social inequality and gender related violence.