

Doc Nomads (DN10) 2022-2024

3th semester (Brussels)

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**Directing in the Field (III):  
Exploring Borders**

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**DOC  
NOMADS**  
JOINT MASTERS

## Assignment

The objectives and the general schedule of this exercise are described in the ECTS file of this course unit. This second document describes the assignment in some greater detail.

The course unit **Directing in the Field (III)** has the subtitle **Exploring Borders** and will have the fieldwork in the coastal city of Oostende. The location invites students to think about different kinds of borders:

- Borders between Belgium, the EU and the outer world.
- Between a city's glorious past, versatile present and a future yet to be invented.
- Between a vibrant living city and a dormant coastal resort.
- Between different quarters or different kind of inhabitants such as fishermen, artists, tourists, etc.
- Between humans and their natural or urban environment.
- Between the inner and outer world of people.
- Between the land, the sea and the sky.

When preparing their film project, students are invited to explore such borders or crossroads, but are free to make their own interpretation of this topic. The topic is here to inspire and should not get in the way of making a good film. The project may focus on an external element (e.g. a character, place, event) but may also focus on a more internal motive, such as certain impressions the city leaves on certain people.

Students are free to choose the subject of their film, but they have to stick to the following requirements:

- Work within the limited time frame and within a limited geographical area.
- Develop the project and acquire the material they need during the fieldtrip to Oostende.
- Making decisions and developing a concept as a group.
- Stick to the formal limitations of the assignment, which are:
  - Making a sound-driven film.
  - No use of moving images, only still images.
  - Within the film, make a connection to the past or future.
  - Max. 5min

This is a group project and the students in each group all direct the film together. No matter which extra function(s) they take upon themselves, they are all directors in the first place and will have to come into agreement with each other. Decisions are made within the group. Students are encouraged to deepen their relationships and communicate their intentions to one another. The students choose who will take on the cinematography (still images), sound recording, image editing and/or sound editing. Students can take upon themselves multiple tasks.

The assignment creates offbeat circumstances and students will further develop quick decision making, negotiate unexpected situations and trust on their instincts.

The assignment has a focus on the power of still image and the narrative value of sound. The films cannot only use voice-over or interviews. Students are encouraged to think about sound as a crucial element in storytelling. There's a strong emphasis on the importance of editing sound and image.

Students are free to choose the subjects, characters, themes, topics, form, style, etc. but they are challenged to create at least one moment where there is a connection to the future or the past. This can be through observation, questioning, fictionalization, etc. This connection to the past or future could be the overall theme of the film but that is not a requirement.

## Evaluation

Students are assessed on:

- Their ability to find a topic/subject in a new environment that they connect to, as small as it might be, and in a limited time span. To find their needle in a haystack.
- Their ability to venture into a new location, explore different possibilities, conduct research for an artistic work by interviewing people.
- Their ability, as members of a small group, to communicate their intentions to one another, and handle quick decision-making in group.
- Develop a personal yet substantiated vision on the relationship between film and society.
- To have an original voice, imagination and signature as a filmmaker, and have the ability to communicate these in a convincing way.

The progress that a group makes is almost as important as the outcome, and students will get evaluated accordingly.