



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKING IN MULTILINGUAL ZAMBIA.
A TRANS-DISCIPLINARY DOCUMENTARY FILM BASED RESEARCH PROJECT**

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ABSTRACT:

This presentation will address the opportunities, challenges and practicalities of engaging in documentary film practice in a multilingual African context. The presentation will relate to, and feature clips from the 75 minute creative documentary film based research project *Good Morning, Grade One*, filmed in Zambia over 12 months in 2012 and set for release in late 2014. The project focuses on the dilemmas of language and education in multilingual Zambia, a country with 72 languages, and only one official language - English, spoken at home by only 1.7% of the population. Through the window of a rural grade one primary school class and their embattled young urban teacher, the research aims to academically and creatively address the ideological and practical complexities that surround language use and education within a multilingual southern Africa nation.

The project is academically situated within linguistic anthropology, specifically engaging with literature in the subfields of linguistic ideology, multilingualism, modernity and the linguistic anthropology of education. The presentation will present the methodological and theoretical approach of the project, highlighting the translation and linguistic opportunities and challenges a filmmaker working in the region encounters.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Alastair Cole is a filmmaker based in Scotland, with a passion for Africa, its cultures and its many languages. He is also a PhD candidate on *Trans-disciplinary Documentary Film* at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.