



Activity Report 2025

24 February 2026

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The statutes of SQRIDGE were deposited at the Belgian registry on 26 August 2019, and published on 28 August 2019 in the Belgian legal journal, thus legally establishing the NGO as an “internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk” (iuzw, or an international non-profit organization), regulated by the Belgian law of 23 March 2019 establishing a code of companies and associations.

SQRIDGE has the following aims:

- a) promoting, enabling and performing artistic research and scientific research, and research that is located at its intersections;**
- b) actively engaging in international scientific research, in the broadest possible range of academic fields and disciplines;**
- c) actively engaging in and supporting the production, the display and the distribution of creative practices, at the international level, in the different artistic domains;**
- d) stimulating international collaborations, dialogues, debates and reflections in relation to arts, science and their intersecting domains.**

SQRIDGE currently has two directors, Nico Carpentier and Vaia Doudaki.

This document reports on the activities of SQRIDGE, for the fifth full year of its existence, from 1 January until 31 December 2025.



Sqridgings

In 2025, the focus was placed on finalizing two existing projects. In particular, the work on the film essay *Agon: Constructions of Democracy* (1) was completed, and the film had its première on 23 October 2025 in Prague's Ponrepo Kino. Two exhibitions on the visual essay about the permanent collection of the House of European History in Brussels (2) were organised, while a hybrid version of the essay was published as a book chapter in August 2025. The series of presentations on arts-based research continued (3).

2025 was not univocally successful: The application for a doctoral network centred around arts-based research (SABReK), prepared in 2024, did not receive funding. Moreover, the negotiations with the Athens' gallery Eight for another iteration of the *Mirror of Conflict* exhibition turned out to be unsuccessful. Also the planned exhibition on the memorialization of WWII in Estonia could not take place, after the Estonian National Museum withdrew from the project.

Finally, the article on the *Forest Owners* (which was part of the *Moulding Nature* exhibition) is still in review. More recently, an analysis of the reception of the *Wolf Talks* exhibition—written together with Elisabeth Ulrika Wennerström—has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.



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Sqridging 1: Agon: Constructions of Democracy

Agon is a filmic interpretation of the chapter on democracy from the book “Democracy and Media in Europe: A discursive-material approach” that Nico Carpentier and Jeffrey Wimmer published in (early) 2025. Both the film and the book are part of the Horizon Europe project MeDeMAP (Mapping Media for Future Democracies).

Agon is a 26-minute film essay that reflects about the meaning of democracy, and how it is contested. The film combines the aesthetics of the Czech capital Prague with an intercultural dialogue with the Indonesian community (and other communities) living in this city, thus opening up further spaces for democratic inquiry. As an experiment in the reconciliation of academic and artistic approaches, which includes merging political and cultural theory with fiction and dance, Agon is an invitation to consider what democracy is and what it can be, how it is linked to space, how it is always a location of political struggle, and how it is threatened and always in need of active protection. The film essay's co-directors are Nico Carpentier and Ali Minanto, and the director of photography is Jhon Sany Purwanto.

Early 2026, the film essay was published in Tecmerin: Journal of Audiovisual Essays - Issue 16 - 2025 (2). See <https://tecmerin.uc3m.es/project/agon-constructions-of-democracy/?lang=en>

This is the publication's reference:

Minanto, Ali; Carpentier, Nico & Purwanto, Jhon Sany (2025). AGON: Construcciones de democracia/AGON: Constructions of Democracy, Tecmerin: Revista de Ensayos Audiovisuales, 16, 2025(2), <https://tecmerin.uc3m.es/project/agon-constructions-of-democracy/?lang=en>



"Democracy is a complex phenomenon.
It is contingent, contested and constructed."

AGON

CONSTRUCTIONS OF DEMOCRACY

A FILM BY

ALI MINANTO
NICO CARPENTIER
JHON SANY PURWANTO

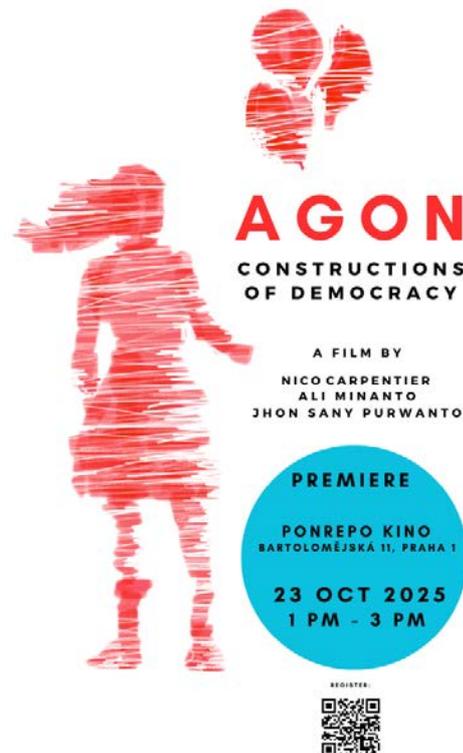


(Production photos by Nico Carpentier and Ali Minanto)



Agon screenings (until February 2026)

- (Avant-premiere) screening at Flow34, IAMCR conference, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13 - 17 July 2025);
- (Avant-premiere) screening at the 6th MeDeMAP consortium meeting, Fachhochschule St. Pölten, St. Pölten, Austria (24 - 26 September 2025);
- **Première screening at Kino Ponrepo, Prague, Czech Republic (23 October 2025);**
- Screening as part of guest lecture on “Using arts-based research in communication and media studies: The film essay AGON as example”, Media Mondays I, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University (8 December 2025);
- Screening as part of the guest lecture on “Arts-based research in communication and media studies: The film essay AGON as example”, 7th MCAP doctoral spring school 2026, Fitima Jinnah Women University, Islamabad, Pakistan (2 February 2026);
- Screening at the 11th MCAP-BNU International Media Conference 2026, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan (12 February 2026);



Planned Agon screenings (after February 2026)

- Screening at the Department of Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Cyprus (3 March 2026);
- Screening as part of the conference presentation on "The shifting political centre, democracy, and the foundations of journalism: how to survive in today's polarized political landscape?" at the Media Conference 2026: Journalism, Freedom, Data, Privacy, Tallinn University, Estonia (26 March 2026) (<https://www.tlu.ee/en/media-conference-2026>);
- Screening at the Research Seminar on Media and Democracy, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary (23 April 2026) (<https://www.uni-corvinus.hu/post/event/research-seminar-on-media-and-democracy/?lang=en>).

JOURNAL OF AUDIOVISUAL ESSAYS

ISSUES CALL FOR PAPERS CONTACT EDITORIAL BOARD Español

Issue 16 – 2025 (2)

AGON. Constructions of Democracy

Ali Minanto (Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, CharlesUniversity),
Nico Carpentier (Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Charles
University), Jhon Sany Purwanto (independent filmmaker)



How to cite this article: Minanto, Ali; Carpentier, Nico & Purwanto, Jhon Sany (2025).
AGON: Construcciones de democracia/AGON: Constructions of
Democracy, *Tecmerin. Revista de Ensayos Audiovisuales*, 16, 2025(2). ISSN:
2659-4269

Other videoessays in this issue



Satoshi Kon



Cumhaidh na
haithrise/ Nostalgia de
la imitación



AGON: Constructions
of Democracy



What's behind the
Kubrick's characters?

(Tecmerin publication screenshot at <https://tecmerin.uc3m.es/project/agon-constructions-of-democracy/?lang=en>)

2

Sqridging 2: Exhibitions on the House of European History's construction of Europeanity



The visual essay analyses the construction of Europeanity in the Brussels-based House of European History, a museum which opened its doors in 2017 and is mostly financed by the European Parliament. With a theoretical framework that distinguishes two dimensions (an essentialist/relationist discursive dimension and a political-spatial/socio-spatial material dimension), the essay combines a discourse-theoretical analysis with an arts-based research driven approach. The latter resulted in the inclusion of 19 photomontages which re-articulate the objects and projections of the permanent exhibition (and the museum shop) and which autonomously reflect on the museum's construction of Europeanity. Together with the discourse-theoretical analysis of the exhibition (and its Guidebooks from 2019 and 2023), the analysis shows the strong presence of a more relationist discursive dimension, but it also demonstrates the impossibility to escape from more essentialist components, which include the articulation of Europeanity through value discourses, combined with the progressionist approach towards history and the privileging of the state on the one hand, and the (semi-)exclusions of regions that once were Europe, combined with the lack of substantial attention for the European periphery, and its key minorities and indigenous people, on the other hand.



In 2025, a hybrid version (combining written text and photography) of the visual essay was published in the edited volume “[The European Media in the Platform Era](#)”, with Stylianos Papathanassopoulos and Andrea Miconi as editors.

This is the reference:

CARPENTIER, NICO (2025) *The Construction of a European Identity: A Visual Exploration of the House of European History’s Narratives*, in Stylianos Papathanassopoulos and Andrea Miconi (eds.) *The European Media in the Platform Era*. Springer, Cham, pp 189-221, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-96954-6_11



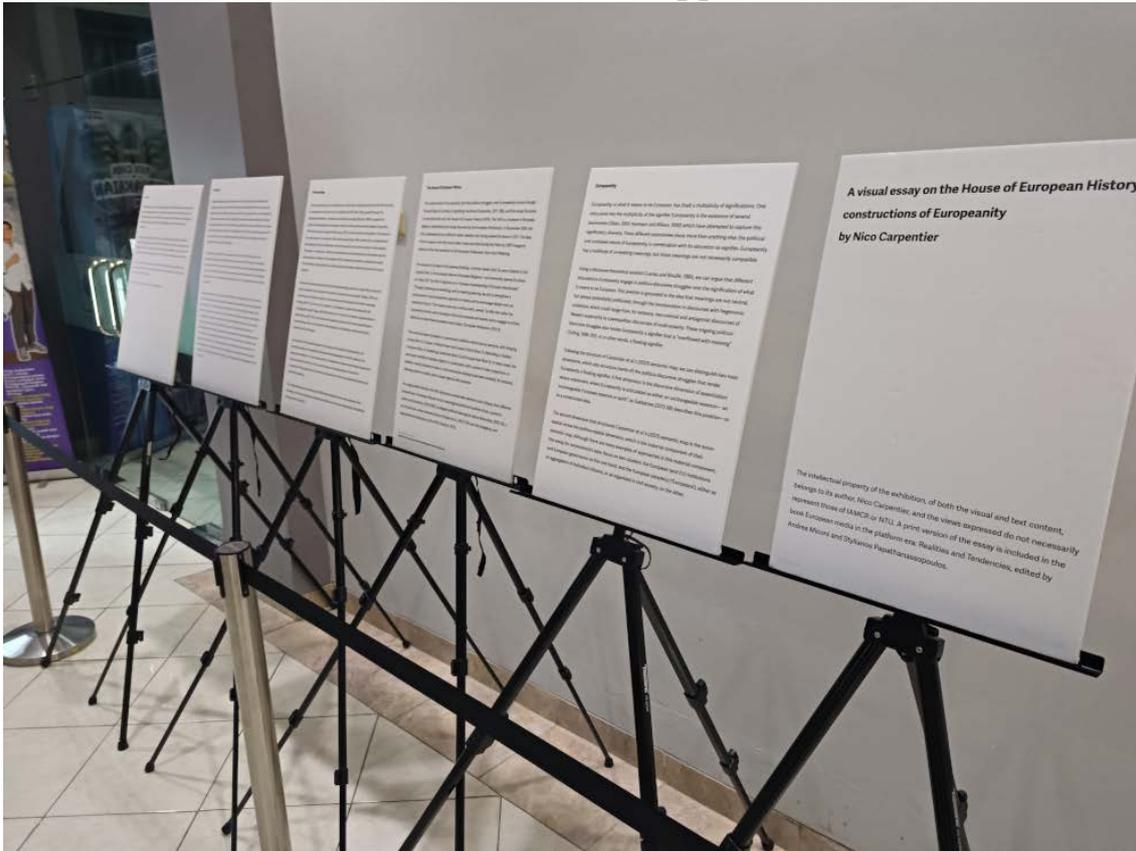
Moreover, two exhibitions of the visual essay were organised:

- IAMCR conference, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13-17 July 2025)
- Dept. of Communications, Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (21-25 July 2025)

IAMCR conference, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia







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Sqridging 3: Communicating about arts-based research

Two additional presentations on ABR were organised in 2025, namely:

- **CARPENTIER, NICO (2025) Arts-based research interventions in support of agonisation: The example of the Mirror of Conflict, LANACOM 2025: Intercultural Dialogue and Sustainable Horizons in Media, Language, and Literature, Alexandria, Egypt (4–5 May 2025), invited online keynote.**
- **CARPENTIER, NICO (2025) Arts-based research interventions in support of agonisation: The example of the Mirror of Conflict, Special Session Multimodal Academic Communication Task Force, IAMCR conference, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13–17 July 2025).**

Moreover, support was given to the IAMCR INTER/ACTIONS task force, which produced the following report in 2025:

- **INTER/ACTIONS: Multimodal Academic Communication Task Force (2025) Media and Communication Research Through a Multimodal Lens. Paris: IAMCR, <https://iamcr.org/MCR-report-2025>**



Future plans

On the short-term, the Agon film essay's promotion and screenings will continue.

Also other results (and deliverables) of the MeDeMAP will be considered to feature as a film essay.

Currently, the options to launch an audiovisual academic journal are being studied.

Finally, in 2026, another attempt will be made at submitting the SABReK proposal.