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ALTAR is an audiovisual laboratory for anthropological research located in The Cairns Institute and College for Art, Society and Education at James Cook University (JCU). We specialise in places and people of the tropics. Our members are committed to developing practice-lead approaches to research that engage with and contribute to the communities with whom we work with. We are therefore concerned with not only returning research and other audiovisual materials to communities, but finding the ways to make audiovisual research relevant within local concerns and agendas.

ALTAR members

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Spirit (2012), Ringtone (2014) as well as the video artworks Christmas with Wawa and My Red Yolngu Heart.

Christiane Falck:

Christiane is currently working on an exhibition about people's relations with spirits in a Sepik community in Papua New Guinea. Part of the exhibition will be audiovisual material as well as artefacts collected during her PhD fieldwork. Since spirits inhabit an unseen sphere, Christiane is currently experimenting with ways in which audio-visual material can be used to capture the immaterial and can be presented in a way that will help the visitor of the exhibition understand people's lifeworld. The

Kristian Lupinski:

Kristian is a talented BA student of the Creative Industries (Media Design) program at the JCU. Throughout his life, he was involved in a number of video and film productions, such as these of the Little Earth Productions (Cairns). He is also a member of the Tropical Arts Council. At the end of the year, he is going to undertake a field trip to the Amazon. He is going to collect material for his audio-visual project that focuses on the culture of the Witoto Murui people. Currently, he is working with Daniela Vávrová on her film project about a Polish priest in Papua New Guinea.

Ton Otto:

Ton Otto's interests comprise the epistemology and methodology of ethnographic research, including visual and museum anthropology, and its relationship to innovation, inte

Amazon rainforest in Colombia. During her fieldwork, Kasia collected numerous audio-visual materials with an intention to create a short documentary film about the Witoto Murui language and culture. Currently, while collaborating with the co-editor of the film, Kristian Lupinski, she is preparing her materials for editing.

Mike Wood:

Editing of a short film about a key mourning ritual among the Kamula people, Papua New Guinea. The ritual uses song and dance to allow for the intense expression of grief and compassion. The resulting video will be used for teaching purposes while other copies will be taken back to Kamula communities.

Seraeah Wyles:

Seraeah Wyles began filming with an idea of creating a series of films that showcase the importance of learning and sharing cultural knowledge within her traditional owner group 'Girramay' on her father's lineage. Her current proje 1 (ur (e)eagf14) 0 45 0 q