

**Dr Rupert Stasch (University of Cambridge)**

*Chair: Dr Tatsuma Padoan*



# “The Plural Reflexivity of TV Editors: Interactions of Documentary Realism, Photographed Speech, and the Mythos of Primitive and Modern”



**Monday 27 March 2023, 17.00-19.00, Kane Building B10B  
Film & Screen Media Auditorium, UCC – ALL WELCOME**

This talk examines the appeal to viewers of television documentaries about “tribal” societies, through the example of the BBC 2 series *My Year with the Tribe*. Although the show followed primitivist conventions of this genre, it also engaged in a meta-televisual exposé of the inaccuracy of tourists’ and media workers’ fantasies about who Korowai are. This talk touches on editors’ struggle with tensions between these two concepts of the show, and more generally examines through fieldwork the aesthetic, communicative ideas guiding their production and post-production work. Partly in the tradition of Goffman’s essay on “Footing,” I focus on the diversity of voicing configurations involved in the show’s depiction of speech, and diversity of its configurations of visual perspective and address, as these relate to engaging and pleasing viewers.

**Dr Rupert Stasch** is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, where he has worked since 2015, after teaching for long periods at UC San Diego and Reed College. He is the author of *Society of Others: Kinship and Mourning in a West Papuan Place* (2009) and numerous articles based on fieldwork with Korowai of Indonesian-controlled Papua since 1995.

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