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Behind the Pseudonyms: A Genealogical Approach to Queer Media History

This book and media project develops a new historiographic method for recovering lost media history. In particular, the book focuses on queer media history that is all but forgotten, films and media made by filmmakers and artists who are long dead. To unearth these forgotten histories the book synthesizes archival research with legal history and genealogical methods. Ultimately, the project recons with the history of marginalized media cultures by directly confronting issues of erasure and state censorship, and recovering histories of forgotten media makers who otherwise would be lost to the sands of time. The broader media project that connects to the book will involve the creation of video essays that develop a visual approach to the archival methods developed in the book. In order to implement the project I am seeking two research trips to archives in Los Angeles and New York, and one training trip to a workshop on creative approaches to the medium of video essays. The research for this project will culminate in a monograph that is the first of its kind to apply genealogical methods to LGBTQ+ media history, and it will also result in at least one innovative video essay that I plan to submit to a short film festival that focuses on video essays, as well as, a peer-reviewed online venue for videographic criticism.