



PhD by Existing Creative Work – Personal Statement | Sarah Hamilton 11.27.23

Please provide a statement of no more than 1000 words outlining:

- How and in what respect the work has made a significant and coherent contribution of knowledge.
- The impact within its discipline
- The methodologies used
- An appropriate contextualization of the research
- Clear indication of any parts of the work which may have been carried out in collaboration with other parties/authors

In my role as a director, producer, professor and author for social impact films, I am proud to be recognized by the industry addressing social issues with an Emmy Awards from the National Academy Television Arts Sciences, Gold Award from the Telly Awards, the world's largest honor for video and television content, the Davey Awards and numerous film festivals awards including "Best Social Justice Short Documentary", and I was named a "Social Impact Hero" by Authority Magazine, and recognized by Forbes as a "Social Impact Expert".

In a rapidly evolving world marked by deep social divides, the transformative power of storytelling cannot be overstated. It is through targeted mediums such as film that we have the unique opportunity to ignite conversations, challenge societal norms, and catalyze actions towards positive social impact and change.

The contribution that my Emmy-Winning social impact films, along with study guides, has been instrumental in raising awareness about critical social issues and have resonating with both academic and general audiences. Our film has stimulated conversations, ignited activism, and provoked policy changes, and served as a catalyst for change by amplifying voices that were previously overlooked or silenced. The resulting collaboration has united efforts to tackle the rooted issues addressed in the documentary, creating a lasting impact on the community and societal systems.

In addition to the films themselves, the inclusion of accompanying educational guides has been integral to their transformative power. These educational guides provide a structured framework for deeper exploration and critical analysis, empowering viewers to become engaged participants in pursuing social progress. By leading viewers through discussions and providing resources for further research, these educational guides foster more meaningful engagement and understanding. The Official Guides for Study and Discussion for the Nobel Legacy Films have had over 2 million copies distributed worldwide.

My social impact productions required a rigorous approach to capture compelling narratives. The methodology consisted of thorough research, ethical interviews, immersive observations, and meticulous editing. We collaborated with individuals from the community to ensure accurate representation and implemented an inclusive filmmaking approach, empowering participants to share their own experiences authentically. We also utilized interviews with experts in the fields of mental health, education, and topics of each documentary. These documentaries have also made a significant and coherent contribution to knowledge by tackling the sensitive subjects of mental health, school shootings, affordable housing, immigration and Nobel Peace Winning Initiatives.

We employed innovative storytelling techniques, combining personal narratives, archival footage, and expert analysis. This creative approach enhanced viewer engagement and enriched the impact of the documentary. By blending the artistic and scholarly elements, we aimed to evoke emotional responses while delivering an intellectual and educational experience.

Additionally, the use of personal testimonies from survivors and affected individuals added emotional depth and relatability to the documentary, fostering empathy and understanding among viewers. It was our intent to synthesize and present complex information in a clear and concise manner was a crucial aspect of the documentaries' success.

Collaborative Teams: *View all credits and awards and www.studiosocialimpact.com*

- Day Without Hate was directed and produced by myself, Adam Baca and Connor Tieulie.
- Immokalee: My Home was directed and produced by myself and Connor Tieulie.
- TEDx film productions were directed, edited and produced by myself.
- The Nobel Peace Legacy Film Guides for Dalai Lama: Scientist and Shirin Ebadi: Until We Are free were written and designed by myself.

The impact of these social impact productions have not been limited to the discipline itself. Educational institutions, policymakers, and community organizations have recognized their efficacy and integrated them into their curricula, programs, and advocacy efforts. By incorporating these resources, they are fostering a deeper understanding of social issues and empowering individuals to drive tangible change.

Furthermore, these films inspire viewers to take action within their own communities. They create spaces where difficult topics can be addressed, challenging existing power structures and promoting a more inclusive society. By actively participating in these educational programs, we contribute to magnifying their impact and fostering a more inclusive and just society.