

## Social Change Symposium

**Candidate:** Christian Berzi

**School:** Media and Communication

**Presentation:** Second Milestone Review, May 2023

**Title:** Wrestle it Back!

**Abstract:** This research will investigate the use of ethnography in documentary filmmaking and its potential to enhance our understanding of the local Australian wrestling scene in Melbourne. It will also explore the parallels between documentary filmmaking as a creative practice and an ethnographic research methodology. Utilising interviews, participant observation and archival footage, this research will document the practices, experiences, and perspectives of wrestlers and fans. In addition, this research will be conducted from the unique perspective of both a wrestling fan and filmmaker through an ethnographic lens, demonstrating the value of a subjective approach to documentary filmmaking whilst maintaining an ethical practice. The research will contribute to the ongoing dialogue around the use of ethnography in documentary filmmaking and highlight the potential to provide a deeper understanding of complex, underrepresented subcultures. This research also hopes to further the academic discussion on Australian professional wrestling through ethnography.