

# **Unfiltered Storytelling – An exploration of (highly) sensitive perception for character development**

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Panel 1

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## **Abstract**

Unlike plot and narrative structure, which work at the surface of a story, character perspective provides an element of depth to a story. Intertwined with perception, perspective provides an experience that is sensed (Chamberlain 2016). On the screen these sensations are often ‘invisible’ – they are fires burning underground, the silence between words that remain unspoken, that are written in the screenplay and sensed on the screen.

It is this silence and these hidden perspectives that I am interested in: How can they be expressed through the language(s) of our craft? How do they create depth of character and of story?

An interdisciplinary craft, screenwriting draws from literary and audio-visual storytelling traditions and their accompanying languages (c.f. e.g. for performance: Joyce 2010, for indigenous storytelling: Maras 2017). Into this stylistic diversity, I aim to introduce the language of sensitivity.

As a unique trait, sensitivity describes the intensity with which every individual perceives and experiences life through their senses of smell, taste, touch, hearing, seeing and empathy, respectively (Harke 2015). In the case of the highly sensitive person, this evokes ‘unfiltered’ sensations of life, that evoke deep and intense perceptions. My research aims at adapting an unfiltered perception for character development towards a practice of ‘unfiltered’ storytelling: What potential does an understanding of the highly sensitive offer for character development? And how does it translate into storytelling experiences for page and screen?

## **Bio**

**Carina Böhm** holds a MA in Writing for the Media from Bournemouth University. She is a screenwriter who has been working in for German television and in music video production. She is aspiring to commence a PhD in the subject area “Studying the screenplay text: Script development and creative practice” at the University of South Australia in receipt of the Australian Government Research Training Program international (RTPi).