Hi there!

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As chair of Cinema and Media Studies (CAMS), I’m delighted that you are interested in CAMS and write to welcome you to the college and to the department. We are a lively community of filmmakers, historians, editors, theorists, film essayists, sound designers, and screenwriters. We love to talk, think, research, write about, and produce films and audiovisual media of all kinds. So, grab your gear, pack your bags, and come study with us.

Our department is housed in the Weitz Center for Creativity, which includes a film production studio, television studio, two audio recording studios, cinema classrooms, editing labs, and a 200-seat cinema. The CAMS Production Office is stockpiled with cameras, lights, audio recording equipment, and the latest production accessories for students enrolled in our courses. As well, the Gould Library contains an extensive film and media collection including specialized historical and industrial documents not typically accessible to the general public. Guided by the faculty, CAMS majors are getting their films into festivals, papers published in undergraduate film journals, and major grants for continuing their creative work after graduation. We could not be prouder of our students and their accomplishments.

Every year CAMS sponsors off-campus studies programs exploring global film and media cultures and industries. Next year the CAMS road-trippers are in New York, Lisbon, Rotterdam, and Berlin as part of the Contemporary Media Arts: New York and Europe program run by Professor Laska Jimsen. The following year, Professor Cecilia Cornejo and I will offer a December-break program to Santiago and Buenos Aires to meet with filmmakers and study the film industries of Chile and Argentina.

You do not need to have any special expertise or experience to major in CAMS—just an insatiable desire to learn. If you have questions about CAMS or Carleton, please give me a call at 507-222-4130 or send me an email at jbeck@carleton.edu. I look forward to working with you in the very near future.

With best wishes,

Jay Beck
Chair, Department of Cinema and Media Studies