Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)
Academic year 2019-2020

Archive, Memory, History

ANSO117- Spring - 6 ECTS
Schedule & Room

Course Description

This course explores questions of archive, memory, history, and historiography, focusing especially on more vernacular versus state and institutionalized modes of knowledge production. Throughout we will be especially concerned with the dynamics of archival formation, memory work and commemorative practice, and with popular historiographies emergent and significant at different political, historical, and sociocultural conjunctures. Relevant are theorizations such as that of the ‘living archive,’ a perspective that highlights volatility and change against the conventionally assumed stasis of the archive as well as counter-archives that challenge or present alternatives to the more official archives of institutions and the state. Material memory, archives of the silenced, disappeared, and (soon to be) lost, or the archives of the urban everyday all bring different ways of understanding to how the past is mediated and becomes embedded or congeals in artefacts and public space, as does the work of artists who make or draw upon archives and incorporate ‘found objects’ into their practice. Equally importantly, we will consider how processes of digitization raise theoretical questions concerning the materiality, value, and historicity of different sources, knowledge production and the work of memory and, crucially, participation in and access to the archive, its constitution, and interpretation.

Syllabus

Evaluation: Active student participation is expected. Each week 1-2 students will be responsible for presenting the material in class (guidelines will be provided). The main assignment of the class is an archive or museum-based research project of the student’s choice. This must be formulated early and a journal must be kept about the research and the experience with the archives and/or collections consulted.
The final grade will be based on the following assignments:

- In-class presentation(s) on course readings 20%
- 1 response paper to UN archive tour 20%
- 1 presentation on archive/collection project 20%
- 1 final essay on archive/collection 40%

The assignments will be posted on Moodle.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

**February 19**  
*Introduction*  
Screening of Eugenia Kisin’s *Citizenship Archive* (14 min.)

**February 26**  
*Sounding the Archive*  
http://www.politicalconcepts.org/archive-ariella-azoulay/

**March 4**  
*In the Archive – From paper to electronic trace*  

**March 11**  
NO CLASS (Select and visit your archive)

**March 18**  
*The Pulse of the Archive*  
**Individual Archive Project plan due**

**March 25**  
League of Nations/UN Archive tour (with Mr. Jacques Oberson)  
Jarrett M. Drake, “‘ Graveyards of Exclusion’: Archives, Prisons, and the Bounds of Belonging”

**April 1**  
Students present Individual Archive Project plan  
Please look at before class: “A big archive of occult recordings”  
http://www.openculture.com/2018/02/a-big-archive-of-occult-recordin  
April 8

Historiography: Critical Engagements

** Exhibition response paper due **

April 15

No Class – Easter Break

April 22

Archives of the Disappeared I

** Film: *The Lost Picture*, dir. Rithy Pahn

April 29

Archives of the Disappeared II

** Film: *Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock and Roll*, dir. John Pirozzi

May 6

Archives/Counter-Archives/Collections
https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/688868

** Film: *Digital Amnesia*, dir. Bregtje van der Haak

May 13

The City in the Archive/The Archive in the City

May 20

The Living Archive


**May 27**

*Students present their final projects*

NB at #mMetoo archive in the making