The Global City and Media Ethnography: Practice-led Transcultural Media Research

Allen Feldman
Associate Professor
Department of Media Culture and Communication

The course focuses on the theories and methods of media/sensory ethnography, visual culture, media archeology, through the linked topics of transcultural and trans-local processes, diaspora identities, the post colonial and human rights. The curriculum is aimed at graduate students from diverse disciplines who want to explore creative media practice as a research methodology. This course provides students with theoretical and practical grounding in multi-sited action research in trans-cultural and transnational settings. Through social historical and trans-cultural ethnographic perspectives practice-led pedagogy promotes a self-reflexive contextual and critical understanding of the use of media for the conduct and dissemination of research and the creation of social knowledge through participatory cultural production. Practice-Led Media Research is the theory, social history pedagogy and circulation of social science and humanities research through the production of film, video, internet, visual arts and other screen/audio based media. Practice-led research overcomes divisions between social theory and action-research, and between creative practice and evidence-based research. An important focus is the use of visual media to convey ideas and distinctive understandings about the world. There is a strong emphasis on comprehending visual phenomena in cross-cultural perspective and on the multifarious roles played by media in processes of identity and cultural formation in the world today.

Seminar Requirements and Grading:
- Consistent attendance and participation in class discussion and media labs: 25%
- Oral presentation of culminating project: 15%
- Term Paper Advisement Session with Instructor: 10%
- Based on the readings, class discussions, 1:1 faculty advisement and independent research students will first orally present and subsequently write and submit a proposal for media ethnography field research with a literature review and a theory-grounded practice-based component. Term Paper based on minimum of 10 seminar readings and related class discussions: a minimum of 20 double spaced pages not including footnotes and bibliography. 50%.
- The proposals of students will be submitted for an oral peer review by class participants and guest faculty in an ethnographic clinics

Course Resource Materials:
Course reader, films, exhibition artifacts, photography collections.

Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete the course will be able to demonstrate:

- advanced understanding of research methodologies, vocabularies and procedures appropriate to M.A. and Ph.D level work in Media Ethnography and Visual Culture.
• advanced skills in the application of critical and interpretive vocabularies

• Learn to write a critical literature review

• developed research, writing and communication skills

• self-reflexivity as a research practitioner in cross cultural settings.

• developed ability in identifying and addressing research objectives

• knowledge of a range of specific critical vocabularies, debates and concerns focused on visual communication, visual culture, media ethnography, and cultural studies.

**June 16 Morning**

**Course Overview and Multi-Sited Fieldwork**

Readings:


**Suggested Reading:**


June 16-17 Situated Knowing

Screenings:
Ragazzi Rossella.


Readings:

MacDougall, David:


Ilisa Barbash, David MacDougall, Lucien Taylor, Judith MacDougall

Grimshaw, A.

Taylor, Lucien

Henley, Paul
Walter Benjamin
(1999, 1955) "The Storyteller", in Illuminations, Published by Pimlico UK) page 83-107

MacDougall, David:


Ragazzi, Rossella.


Renov, Michael.

Tuesday 3-5pm Introductory Individual Advisement

June 18, Wednesday

Politics of the Gaze and the Sensory Formation of Modernity

Morning: Sensory Formations of Space

Brighenti, Andrea,

Goffman E.,
1959 Front and Back Space Regions in Everyday Life.
In the Everyday Life Reader ed, Ben Highmore Routledge.

Roland Barthes,

Michael E. Gardiner,
2006 Everyday Knowledge Theory Culture Society 23; 205.

David, Harvey, 1989


Couze Venn (2006) Rubbish, the Remnant, Etcetera 23; 44 Theory Culture Society


Wednesday Afternoon: The Politics of the Image

**Screening: The Perverts Guide to Cinema**

Readings:  


Warner Michael,  

Foster, Hal,  

Richter, Gerhard,  

Feldman, Allen,  

June 19th Thursday Morning  

**Negotiating Images And Access**  


June 19th – June 20th (Thursday afternoon-Friday )  

Reading and Performing the Archive (Kempadoo)  

_Screenings:_ Ghostings/ Endless Prospects: Digital Media Installation (Roshini Kempadoo)  

_Ghosting reflects the interconnections of the Caribbean’s worldwide origins and its roots in slavery, indentureship and migration. As a screen-based installation, different stories, landscapes and conversations are explored through an interactive device that highlights the polyphony of cultural memory versus archival repression._  

Readings:  
Kempadoo Roshini  

[2000]Imaging historical traces: Virtual Exiles project  
[http://www.mediascot.org/exiles/ve/index.html]  

María Fernández

Bailey, D. and Boyce, S.  

Benjamin, Walter.  

Wolfgang Ernst  

Edwards, E.  

Russell, C.  

Recommended Readings:

Lockhart, S.  

Seremetakis, C.N.  

Rogoff, I.  

Advisement Sessions Friday 3-5pm

June 23- 24th

The Aesthetics and Ethics of Evidence Case Study: The Breathing Factory (Mark Curren). The Breathing Factory Project presents a timely visual ethnographic analysis of contemporary Ireland, the most globalised economy in the world. The installation looks beyond the smooth images of corporate working life that emanate from centralised branding systems and evokes the homogeneous and globally proliferated spaces of new, ‘high tech’ labour practices.

Readings:
Curran Mark *The Breathing Factory: Locating the Global Labouring Body*

Appadurai, A.

Carville, J.

Foster, Hal (1996)

Grundberg, A.

Highmore, B.

Levi Strauss, D.

Newbury, D.

Owens, C.

Pink, S.

**Web-based Resources:**

Blogs:
http://politicstheoryphotography.blogspot.com/
http://www.jmcolberg.com/weblog/

Archival Material:
http://www.ubu.com/

Research-based sites:
http://www.workinglives.org/
http://www.centerforworkingclassstudies.org/

Artist-based Re-Narration:
The Atlas Group:
http://www.theatlasgroup.org/aga.html
Susan Meisalas:
http://www.akakurdistan.com/
Paul Graham:
http://www.paulgrahamarchive.com/
Geert van Kesteren:
http://www.whymisterwhy.com/

Other:
Allan Sekula interview at Documenta 12:

Recommended Readings:


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**Advisement Sessions**

**June 25 (Weds Morning Feldman)**

**Cultural Anesthesia, Human Rights and Structural Visibility/Invisibility**

**Screenings: Notre Musique, Between Joyce and Memory**

Hesford Wendy,

Agamben Giorgio,

Baer, Ulrich

Feldman, Allen,


Wednesday Afternoon:

| Advisement Sessions |

**June 26 Thursday**

Observational sensibility in engaging the 'real': aesthetic sensibility during field research--case studies of translation from both art and anthropology. (Ravetz)

**Readings:**

Ravetz, A.

Ravetz, A.
2007 Website for Connecting Art and Anthropology workshop: www.miriad.mmu.ac.uk/caa

Ravetz, A.

Grimshaw, A.
“Herb Di Gioia and David Hancock: a case study in early observational cinema”, *Visual Anthropology Review*, vol.22 no. 1, 34-59

Douglas, A. and Chris Freemantle
2004 The Dynamic of the Edge: practice led research into the value of the arts in marginal space. www.onthederesearch.org

Foster, Hal

| 3-5 pm Advisement Sessions (Ravetz, Ragazzi, Feldman) |

**June 27**

*Translating/Transcribing Multi-sensory Fieldwork (Ravetz, Ragazzi, Feldman (Round Table Discussion with Faculty and Students)*
Readings:

MacDougall, D.


Grimshaw, A.

Weiner, James

Cadava Eduardo

Saukko, Paul.


Sekula, Alan.

Nichols, Bill

1-5 pm Student Project Advisement Sessions

Filmography

Excerpts from the following films will be shown:


Van der Keuken, Johan. (1965) Beppie. The Netherlands. 38 minutes.

__________ (1964) Herman Slobbe. The Netherlands. 24 minutes.


