



berlin graduate school
muslim cultures and societies

Affective Archives: Interdisciplinary Theories, Methods and Approaches

Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Freie Universität Berlin

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Is there something called Archival Affect or can we speak of Affective Archives? What is the relationship between a researcher and an archive? Are archives sites where researcher seeks to excavate raw material for objective research or are they spaces where affects can be experienced? In what ways do researchers construct or unmake their archives, and, in turn, are affected by the archives? Does the form or medium of archival residue (paper documents, auditory clips, and visual capsules) have any bearing on the varying levels of engagement with the archive and/ or the sensory experience of the researcher? What concomitant effect may it have on research outcomes? In what ways does a researcher who studies culture from “within” or “outside” ascribe or deny affective meanings to an archive? Is “Objective” research necessarily unaffected research?

This workshop aims to bring these various yet tangled strands of enquiry from interdisciplinary perspectives. We hope to examine these issues critically with close reading, discussion and critique of exemplary studies of archive and affect. Graduate Students from History and Cultural Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, Islamic and Literary Studies are encouraged to participate.

Date:

7 December 2015, 10.00 a.m-18.00 p.m

Preparatory Meeting:

30 October 2015, 10.00 a.m -12.00 a.m

Organiser:

Razak Khan

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Participants:
Doctoral Students

Speakers/Mentors:
Prof. Dr. Schirin Amir-Moazami (BGSMCS) and Dr. Bettina Gräf (BGSMCS)

Format:
Lecture, discussions and presentations

Readings:
Compulsory Readings and Presentations

Requirements:
Compulsory reading of texts
Pre-circulated statement of interest in the research themes and project presentation

Credit Points:
1

Application:
The deadline for application is 15 November 2015 (via e-mail to office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de).

Contact:
For any queries or questions, please contact
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Workshop Outline:

Draft Programme:

9.00-10.00 **Introduction and Brief Presentations of Research Projects**

10.00-10.15 Tea Break

10.15-12.00 **Traps and Temptations: Reading With and Against the Archival Grain**

Jacques Derrida. *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.1-5.

Arlette Farge, *The Allure of the Archives*. New Haven: Yale University Press.2013.53-78.

Ann Laura Stoler. *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 17-53.

12.00- 1.30 **Lunch Break**

- 1.30-3.00 **Performing Emotions, Producing Affects: Body, Senses and Technology**
Lila Abu Lughod. *Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. University of California Press.1986.1-35.
Charles Hirschkind. *The Ethical Soundscape: Cassette Sermons and Islamic Counterpublics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006. 67-104.
Susan Sontag, *On Photography*. New York: Rosetta Books. 1973, 2005. 65-87.
- 3.00- 3.15 **Tea Break**
- 3.15- 4.15 **How State Feels: Secularism, Law and Citizenship**
Judith Butler, *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*. Routledge, New York & London 1997. 43-69.
Veena Das, *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995.175-196.
- 4.15- 6.00 **Film Screening: Ram ke Naam (In the Name of God)**
Documentary film by Anand Patwardhan, 1992
Round Table Discussion