Archives of Migration

Annual Academic and Policy Symposium *Innovation through Migration*

December 9 – 10, 2019 | German Historical Institute Washington - Pacific Regional Office Berkeley

Conveners: Fatima El-Tayeb, University of California, San Diego
Andrea Westermann, German Historical Institute Washington - Pacific Regional Office Berkeley

Our symposium discusses the connection of migration, knowledge, and archives in a historical perspective and brings the invited professionals into (lasting) contact.

Structured around the larger theme of *archives of migration*, the symposium will explore the role of knowledge transmission at the intersections of art, activism, education, media production, policy development, and academia. While the focus of migration studies and polices often is on knowledge production, here, participants will highlight how knowledge, once collected, is preserved and made accessible (or not). We explore the relationship between dominant and marginalized forms of knowledge, the role of material and cultural resources in creating and maintaining archives, and the tension between national and transnational narratives of migration. We are also interested in processes of interpretation and re-interpretation. As with other archives, the materials assembled in *archives of migration* lend themselves to ever new projects of (historical) sense-making and world-making.

The focus on archives of migration seems relevant in light of recent developments that urgently require innovative approaches, yet tend to replicate failed models. The European refugee crisis for example, provoked a cycle of reactions in Germany, from *Willkommenskultur* to the rapid success of anti-immigrant movements and parties; cycles that played out in strikingly similar patterns as compared to the early 1990s, shortly after the German unification and the end of the Cold War. Also, the acknowledgement that marginalized knowledges need to be included in policy decisions, education models, and outreach efforts seems to laboriously be arrived at and then forgotten again in predictable generational cycles. The symposium will thus not only explore the innovations arrived at through migration, but also inquire into how these insights can be presented and preserved in a manner that allows them to have lasting, if changing impact.

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Arrival and Check-in

HOTEL: Graduate Hotel, 2600 Durant Ave, Berkeley
Monday, December 9, 2019
201 Moses Hall, UC Berkeley

11:00 a.m.    Introductory Round
12:30 p.m.    Lunch
1:30 p.m.     Bodies/Archives of Migrant Knowledge

The importance of archives as not only repositories of collective knowledge but also sites of knowledge production is well-established. The panel will explore what this means for the contested field of migration: How can existing archives be mobilized to explore the particular materiality and accessibility of institutionalized, embodied, or inscribed knowledge and experiences of migrants? What are alternative forms of archives and how are they made accessible? How is archival knowledge invoked to authenticate competing narratives of migration? How can archives be used to change ongoing debates around migrants and migration?

Panel Participants:    Joanna Brooks, San Diego State University
                      Yasemin Yildiz, UC Los Angeles
                      Khatharya Um, UC Berkeley

Moderator:    Fatima El-Tayeb, UC San Diego

3:30 p.m.    Coffee Break
3:45 p.m.     Archives of Migration Initiatives

The panel explores patterns of existing archival practices and initiatives: what are the strategies of preservation and acquisition of source materials? What is the role of new technologies in maintaining and making accessible existing archives? What is the potential of digital archives? How and by whom are they accessed? How do contemporary experiences and historical materials speak to each other? How connected are the many archivists of migrant knowledge with each other?

Panel Participants:    Daniel Necas, University of Minnesota Libraries
                      Sandra Vacca, Dokumentationszentrum und Museum über die Migration in Deutschland, Köln
                      Robert Irwin, UC Davis

Moderator:    Paul Burnett, Oral History Center, UC Berkeley

5:45 p.m.    Break

Comal Restaurant, 2020 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley

7:00 p.m.    Dinner
Tuesday, December 10
201 Moses Hall, UC Berkeley

10 a.m.  **State Policies and Migrant Knowledge**

If the standard account deals with the bureaucratic making of migrants and knowledge about migrations, this panel, in turn, discusses whether and how migrant knowledge “from below” has found or might find its way into national or international political decision-taking. What were or are the conditions for any productive way of cooperation and exchange? Can archives be used to add historical context to presentist policy debates?

Panel Participants:  
- Deniz Göktürk, UC Berkeley
- S. Deborah Kang, California State University San Marcos

Moderator:  
- Andrea Westermann, Pacific Regional Office of the GHI Washington, Berkeley

12:00  
Lunch

1 p.m.  **Self-Organization and Migrant Knowledge**

The panel inquires into migrant activists' intellectual, educational and cultural approaches to migration. Which audiences do they address? Which media do they choose? Which notions of participation, empowerment, or politicization do they embrace or reject? How do they discuss and comment on their own institutional trajectory, (changing) aims, or uses of history?

Panel Participants:  
- Dan Thy Nguyen, Stage Director, Actor, co-founder European Migration Knowledge Archive, Hamburg
- Mervete Bobaj, Filmmaker and Activist, Berlin,
- Leslie Quintanilla, San Francisco State University

Moderator:  
- Katharina Hering, German Historical Institute Washington

3 p.m.  
Break

Goethe-Institut, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco

6 p.m.  **Archives of migration: An evening with cultural activists Mervete Bobaj and Dan Thy Nguyen**

Film screening, author reading, and discussion with the audience.

Light refreshments will be served.