

# AERI 2010

## Collective Memory Research Methods

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**Where:** Great Lakes Central

**When:** Tuesday 6/22,  
Part I - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Part II - 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

\*\*\*There are preparatory readings for this workshop:

Please see the thread below of all the readings. If you need a copy, please contact Ellen-Rae Cachola: aeri at gseis dot ucla dot edu.

### Abstract:

The relationship of archives with memory has gained significant attention over the years. As an intellectual field, collective memory studies have been noted to be quite diverse, encompassing wide-ranging intellectual perspectives and academic disciplines. The exploration of collective memory and archives demands an interdisciplinary approach since these fields have been appropriated in disciplines as varied as literary studies, history, sociology, anthropology, information, art, museum, film and mass media, and cultural and heritage studies. Many of these fields also touch upon the nature of records and archives in various ways, great or small, deliberately or not. Consequently, these new engagements, re-appropriations and reconfigurations of archives generated reactions from among those who are engaged in archival education and practice. Many archivists and archival thinkers are steadily examining, and more frequently challenging, traditionally held rules, practices and beliefs that govern the profession. Some are seeking alternative practices of recordkeeping or uncovering the various notions and meanings of "the record." Others attempt to situate archives with power, knowledge production and its relationship with other collecting traditions. There is also a growing movement towards looking at archival practices vis-à-vis underrepresented and marginalized communities. As an academic discipline, archival studies is expanding, incorporating the methods and perspectives of multidisciplinary fields. At this juncture, it will be fruitful to map out the interaction of collective memory studies, archives and the various disciplines that interrogate both areas. The goal of this proposed workshop is to explore the current state of memory studies from *within* the archival community. It aims to gather archival scholars pursuing research on archives and memory, paying particular attention to the following points:

- **Research Topics, Past, Present and Future:** What are the studies done on the subject? What areas need to be further addressed? What could be a viable research agenda for the future?
- **Research Framework:** What existing theoretical frameworks are used and can be used to approach, examine and analyze the archives-memory association?
- **Research Methods:** What research methods are most effectively employed in pursuing such research agenda?
- **Unique Contributions of Archives:** In examining the archives-memory dynamic, what unique contributions may the archives field provide to the larger topic of memory studies? Is there a uniquely archival perspective on the subject?

**Conveners:** Ricardo Punzalan and Trond Jacobsen, University of Michigan; Brien Brothman, Rhode Island State Archives

### Bios:

#### Ricardo Punzalan

I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan School of Information and my advisor is Dr. Margaret Hedstrom. Aside from a Ph.D. in Information, I am enrolled in two graduate certificate programs: Science, Technology and Society (STS) and Museum Studies. My most recent research experience brought me to the town of Techiman in Ghana. Under the auspices of the Museum Studies at Michigan program, I undertook six weeks of ethnographic research studying the recordkeeping practices of the indigenous leadership structure of Techiman. During this period, I helped organize the records of the Techiman Traditional Council and train some of the Council staff in basic archives management and preservation. A paper on this experience, which I intend to submit to a refereed journal, is underway. The paper reflects on the place of textual records in a postcolonial oral society and discusses the role of records within an indigenous leadership structure. I tackle the relationship of archives with the preservation of culture and traditions, and the process by which archival records come to be regarded as heritage. I look at archives not as a set of impartial collection of records, nor as a set of practices driven by a neutral imperative to preserve artifacts. In this regard, I relate archives with the exercise of power, the creation of knowledge and official histories and narratives, and the politics of identity formation. Thus, I have been pursuing research that critically questions the place of archival records and the practices associated with record keeping and curation as legitimate sources or practices of information and knowledge. I have explored these themes in recent papers and articles published as a student at Michigan. My article, "The Archives of the New Possession," in the refereed journal *Archival Science*, explores the entanglement of archives with colonialism, nationhood and the formation

of national identity in the Philippines. In November 2009, I published a book chapter discussing how a collection of medical records created and consumed under a colonial system of medical segregation function as embodiment of community identity and memory within the context of commemoration on the island of Culion, a former leper colony in the Philippines. My pre-candidacy paper titled "Visualizing Leprosy: Archives, Stigma and Social Memory" discusses how images and visual depictions of leprosy function as both representations of medical knowledge and embodiment of stigma and segregation. My duties as a Research Assistant on an NSF-funded research project that looks at the uses of digitized images allowed me to further pursue my passion in visual archives. My research experience in this project led me to pursue a dissertation research that looks at closely the interaction between materiality and digital surrogacy. My dissertation explores how the transformation of analog photographs into the new digital format is affecting the research practices and the interpretation of images by visual studies scholars. Here, I continue to be true to my interest in interrogating archives more critically, this time in terms of accounting for how image digitization, often regarded as a neutral technical process, impacts research practice and interpretation of visual records in profound ways. I pursue my research with the belief that the process of digitization is not merely a technical concern, but an issue that inspires us to rethink the changing nature of visual records, revisit our notions of authenticity and originality, and most importantly, widen our understanding of the power new media has in structuring interpretation, bestowing significance and rendering meaning. Before pursuing my Ph.D. studies, I was an Assistant Professor of archival studies in Philippines. In this context I had the opportunity to help establish archives and heritage centers in remote regions of the Philippines, facilitate workshop and training on collections management and preservation, and curate exhibitions on diverse subjects. In 2006, I organized a commemorative exhibit for the centennial of the Culion Leper Colony, a former medico-penal facility for people afflicted with leprosy in the Philippines.

#### Trond Erik Jacobsen

I am a PhD candidate at the School of Information at the University of Michigan and Dr. Margaret Hedstrom is my advisor. My research interests include archives and collective memory, the use of records as forms of evidence, and the role of research in appraisal. My dissertation answers the question: How do the parties to the Federal Acknowledgment Process mobilize records as evidence? The entire acknowledgment process pivots on mobilizing records as evidence – meaning the identification, acquisition, organization, representation, and interpretation of records as evidence – and assumptions about what constitutes valuable evidence in a juridical context involving indigenous nations. In other current work in my role as a Research Assistant, I collaborate with a faculty member to analyze how scientists and engineers make decisions about reusing others' research and data. In prior work as a Research Assistant, I helped to develop a typology of information asymmetries and information sharing practices between and among indigenous nations and investors in the municipal bond market and between and among indigenous nations and federal, state, and local governments related to law enforcement. As both sole author and with collaborators, I have numerous peer-reviewed publications and invited presentations for each of my research interests. I have a BS in Sociology from the University of Oregon where I studied mass media systems and military research at American universities. As a student and freelance journalist, I have written investigative and analytical pieces on topics as diverse as the relationships between early Clinton-era investments in what was then called the National Information Infrastructure and US foreign and military policy, US and international polices for and governance of near-Earth space, water conflicts in the arid American west, and the National Security Education Act of 1991. For more than a decade I was a college policy debate coach for nationally-ranked programs at Cornell, University of Oregon, University of Vermont, and the University of Alaska and have also worked as a law librarian and political operative for two congressional campaigns.

#### Brien Brothman

A native of Montreal Canada, I hold a BA (history) from McGill University and a PhD (history) from Université Laval (Quebec City). I worked at the National Archives of Canada before moving to Massachusetts in 1995 and joining the Rhode Island State Archives as a specialist on electronic records issues. My main activities have involved the development of policies and advice for the management of electronic records. I am currently serving on the editorial board of the *American Archivist*. I have published on a wide variety of archival issues in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe, usually relating to the significance of poststructuralism for archival theory, the idea of memory in archival practice, and the development of a concept of temporal consciousness in archives. My principal interests all along have been in the development of uniquely archival critical theorizations and explanations of records/documentation in society and history. My most recent publications include "Perfect present, perfect gift: Making a place for archival consciousness in social theory (Archival Science, 2010) and "Archives by Design", an essay on visual modeling in archival discourse, a contribution to a festschrift dedicated to Helen Samuels (forthcoming). Current projects include: "Mabillon's Moment-Solving the problem of authenticity in seventeenth century French culture and society", and "Coming Out: Media, information technology, archives and evolving ideas of the self in history."



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Started By	Thread Subject	Replies	Last Post
<a href="#">TrondJacobsen</a>	<p><a href="#">Collective Memory: Advance Readings List</a></p> <p>Thread started: Jun 9 2010, 1:04 AM EDT <a href="#">Watch</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jeannette A. Bastian, "Flowers for the Homestead: A Case Study in Archives and Collective Memory," <i>The American Archivist</i> 72 (Spring/Summer 2009): 113-132</li> <li>2. Brien Brothman, "The Past that Archives Keep: Memory, History, and the Preservation of Archival Records," <i>Archivaria</i> 51 (1996): 49-80</li> <li>3. Verne Harris, "The Archival Sliver: Power, Memory, and Archives in South Africa," <i>Archival Science</i> 2 (1-2) (2002): 63-86</li> <li>4. Margaret Hedstrom, "Archives and Collective Memory: More than a Metaphor, Less than an Analogy," in: Eastwood and MacNeil, editors, <i>Currents of Archival Thinking</i> (Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2010)</li> <li>5. Kenneth E. Foote, "To Remember and Forget: Archives, Memory, and Culture," <i>The American Archivist</i> 53 (Summer 1990): 378-392</li> <li>6. Wulf Kansteiner "Finding Meaning in Memory: A Methodological Critique of Collective Memory Studies," <i>History and Theory</i> 41 (May 2002): 179-97</li> </ol> <p>If these ~130 pages fail to satiate your intellectual appetites, you may also wish to add the following additional readings:</p> <p>Kerwin Lee Klein, "On the Emergence of Memory in Historical Discourse," <i>Representations</i>, no. 69, Winter 2000. <a href="http://www.uwo.ca/theory/Course%20Descriptions/Kerwin%20Lee%20Klein.pdf">http://www.uwo.ca/theory/Course%20Descriptions/Kerwin%20Lee%20Klein.pdf</a></p> <p>Uri Jacob Matatyaou, "Walter Benjamin's Memorial Politics: Experiencing Memory's Materiality", Prepared for delivery at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 28-31, 2008. <a href="http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/2/7/8/0/3/pages278037/p278037-1.php">http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/2/7/8/0/3/pages278037/p278037-1.php</a></p>	0	Jun 9 2010, 1:04 AM EDT by <a href="#">TrondJacobsen</a>
	<p><a href="#">Advance Readings for Collective Memory Workshop</a></p>	0	Jun 9 2010, 1:03 AM EDT by <a href="#">TrondJacobsen</a>

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