

War, Photo Archives and the Temporalities of Cultural Heritage (Florence, 18–20 Apr 18)

Florence, Photothek in Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Via dei Servi 51, Apr 18–20, 2018
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Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz - Max-Planck-Institut

War, Photo Archives and the Temporalities of Cultural Heritage

Workshop

organized by Costanza Caraffa, Almut Goldhahn (Photothek of the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Florence) and Ewa Manikowska (Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) with the generous support of the Deutsch-Polnische Wissenschaftsstiftung

What do photographic archives tell us about cultural heritage and the ways it is shaped by military and political conflicts? This workshop seeks to investigate the entanglements between war, cultural heritage and photography from a wider chronological and critical perspective. It aims to broaden the scope of research beyond its traditional focus on the politics of representation and on the consequences of armed conflicts for monumental heritage. Its premise is the recognition that both institutional negotiations and private conversations about what is to be defined as cultural heritage take place very often in relation to conflicts and in front of photographs, photo collections and photo albums – or digital images shared on social networks.

Historically, the notion of cultural heritage was impelled by war and intertwined with the establishment of photographic archives. This notion is anything but static: it has been enlarged and adapted over time in order to serve different political and identity projects. Through international institutions it has been consolidated at the global scale, but also constantly reshaped. Acknowledging the importance of rescue or reconstruction initiatives, the workshop emphasises that these must always be seen in relation to geopolitical agendas and societal contexts. It thus seeks to investigate how photography serves as a tool for the protection and at the same time also for the production of a certain idea of cultural heritage in a given cultural context. It also intends to interrogate recent technological advances, their effectiveness, practical challenges and socio-political consequences. The workshop will therefore contribute to the deconstruction and rethinking of the concept of 'cultural heritage'. This concept will be historicised and problematised vis-à-vis a range of different photographic archives as well as historical and current photographic practices.

The workshop will consider WWI and WWII photographic archives not only as documentation of the destruction of monuments: they also preserve the collective memory of genocide and racism as well as private memories of war. All these aspects play a part in the dynamic process of the

making of cultural heritage. It will enquire into the present-day role of these photo archives in post-conflict reconciliation and in preserving and maintaining the heritage and memory of war, and will explore their often contested meanings. Further case studies will help to facilitate a critical analysis of current re-negotiations of cultural heritage that are taking place on a global scale in relation to recent conflicts – e.g. in Syria and Egypt – and digital image production. Last but not least, the workshop will look at photographic archives as cultural heritage, analysing their collective and individual dimensions.

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL

18.00 Evening Lecture

Challenges of Representing History in Museums: Between Academia, Politics and Entertainment
Paweł Machcewicz | Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Political Studies, Warsaw / Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin

THURSDAY 19 APRIL

9.30

Introduction

Costanza Caraffa, Almut Goldhahn | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
Ewa Manikowska | Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Art, Warsaw

PANEL I BEYOND MONUMENTS

Chair: Ewa Manikowska | Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Art, Warsaw

10.00

Ruinscapes of Revolution: Photography, Empire and the Irish Revolution
Justin Carville | Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology

10.45 Coffee Break

11.15

Curating a Revolution

Lucie Ryzova | University of Birmingham

12.00

Futures Deferred: Heritage and Photography in the Shadow of Varosha
Colin Sterling | University College, London

12.45

Panel Discussion

13.30 Lunch Break

PANEL II SYSTEMS OF VALUE

Chair: Tiziana Serena | Università degli Studi di Firenze

14.30

Visual Strategies for Peace-Building: Photographic Archives & Architectural Heritage at UNESCO, c. 1945-60

Tom Allbeson | Cardiff University

15.15

The Making and Unmaking of Syrian Cultural Heritage. The Photo Archive as a Tool of Negotiating and Shaping Cultural Heritage

Rasha Kanjarawi | Syrian Heritage Archive Project, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30

The Impact of Armed Conflicts on the Legal Notion of Cultural Heritage

Andrzej Jakubowski | Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Law Studies, Warsaw

17.15

Panel Discussion

17.45 Coffee Break

18.00

Screening On Photography, Dispossession and Times of Struggle (38 min., 2017)

Introduction by and discussion with the artist Akram Zaatari | Beirut

FRIDAY 20 APRIL

PANEL III PRIVATE/PUBLIC

Chair: Hana Gründler | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

10.00

A Murder Between Wars: Dr Alfred Wiener's Response to the Assassination of Wilhelm Gustloff, 1936

Ben Barkow | Wiener Library, London

10.45 Coffee Break

11.15

"We believe in the Objectivity of the Camera...". Private Photo Albums of World War II as Personal Archives and Cultural Heritage

Petra Bopp | Kolleg-Forscherguppe BildEvidenz, Freie Universität Berlin

12.00

The Personal Space and the Public Space, Peace and War in the Family Photo Archives of the Residents of Donbass (Ukraine)

Ekateryna Siryk | Donbass – Family Photo Archive Project

12.45

Panel Discussion

13.30 Lunch Break

PANEL IV NO ARCHIVE IS INNOCENT

Chair: Almut Goldhahn | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

14.30

Order and Melancholy. Photography and Scholarship, 1935-1947

Hannah Baader | Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin / Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

15.15

Difficult Past. Nazi Photographic Collection of the Polish Highlanders from Podhale Region
Stanisława Trebunia-Staszal | Jagiellonian University, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Cracow

16.00

Panel Discussion

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 Roundtable

Re-cycling Photographic Memories

Paweł Machcewicz, Lucie Ryzova, Akram Zaatari

Chair: Costanza Caraffa

CONTACT

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VENUE

Photothek in Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai

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Via dei Servi 51

50122 Florence / Italy

FURTHER INFORMATION

Web: <http://www.khi.fi.it>

Newsletter: <http://www.khi.fi.it/newsletter>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/khi.fi.it>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/khiflorenz>

Reference:

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