

Unpacking the Archive:
Methodologies and Challenges in Design History
24 March 2017
Royal College of Art, London

The scope of this one-day event is to provide an open forum for doctoral students to share their methodological approaches, practical challenges, ethical questions related to primary research in different types of archives (private, corporate, museum, state, etc). Rather than focusing solely on skills needed to use archives and records, this event will explore methodological approaches in interpreting archival material within the context of design history and material culture studies, while providing insights from related disciplines. The aim is to explore how different types of archives inform our understanding of the subject matter, the possible challenges of working with specific types of archive, and how to integrate archival research with other primary and secondary sources.

Eligibility

The day is open to students in design history and history through material culture, as well as related areas (anthropology, art and architectural history, history of science and technology, geography, cultural studies etc.). All research students at TECHNE partner universities (Royal Holloway, University of London; Kingston University; Royal College of Art; University of the Arts London; University of Brighton; University of Roehampton; University of Surrey) are eligible to participate.

Format

Successful applicants will be asked to send a piece of writing that exposes the use of archival material to the organisers by 13 March 2017, for the organisers to circulate to participants and respondents. This can be a chapter, a portion of a chapter or a paper and shouldn't be more than 6,000 words long. On the day, each participant will speak for ten minutes on their methodological approaches, relating to the piece of writing submitted. The presentation should focus on, practical, ethical and thematic issues encountered when dealing with the archive and archival findings; it should not be a summary of the paper.

Each presentation will be followed by conveners' responses and open discussion. The sessions will be grouped thematically by archive typology and followed by a general discussion on themes and issues relating to archival theories and methodologies.

Lunch (provided) and tea breaks will provide opportunities for networking and discussion. The day will close with final reflections about the event itself, and the identification of possibilities for student-organised follow-on events.

Funding

The event is free to attend. TECHNE students from outside London will be able to claim travel expenses via their home institution from the TECHNE Ad Hoc Travel fund.

Application Process

Please send the following information to: chiara.barbieri@network.rca.ac.uk and rujana.rebernjak@network.rca.ac.uk by 5 pm on 24 February 2017.

- A short abstract of your research (max. 150 words)
- Short description of the type of archive, archival methodology and archival findings you would like to discuss, including the specific questions you would like to discuss (max. 150 words).

Deadline: 5pm on 24 February 2017

Organisers

Chiara Barbieri, Rujana Rebernjak, Lucia Savi, Michaela Young, Dr. Sarah Teasley, Dr. Annabella Pollen, Dr. Jeremy Aynsley, Dr. Catharine Rossi. The event is funded by the TECHNE Doctoral Training Partnership and organised by the Royal College of Art, the University of Brighton and Kingston University.



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