

Digital Heritage and Oral History

Workshop, October 24, 2018, at the Nordic Museum. Conference Room 10-17.

The research consortium DigiCONFLICT and the Nordic Museum cordially invite you to attend an international workshop on oral history and digital heritage. Join the members of the research consortium, representatives from the Nordic Museum, and invited researchers and oral historians from Sweden, Norway and Finland to explore, exchange, and generate new ideas and ways of thinking about the impact of digital heritage on contemporary engagements with the past. Workshop participants will consider what is gained and lost when cultural heritage becomes digital, and who benefits from this process most. The event will be hosted by DigiCONFLICT's Swedish research team, whose work specifically examines the employment of oral history in digital heritage practices. While subsequently the workshop will mainly revolve around this theme, due consideration will also be given to complementary topics.

10.00-10.15 Gil Pasternak, Ewa Manikowska & Malin Thor Tureby: Welcome.

10.15-11.00 Gil Pasternak, Ewa Manikowska & Malin Thor Tureby: *Introduction to the DigiCONFLICT Research Consortium and the 'Digital Heritage in Cultural Conflicts' research project.*

11.00-12.00 Keynote speaker: Anne Heimo, Adjunct Professor of Folkloristics, University of Turku. *The Digital Heritage of the 1918 Finnish Civil War.*

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-13.30 Björn Enes, Co-founder and present manager of Memoar – Norwegian organisation for oral history. *Oral History, Citizen Science and Digital Heritage in Norway.*

13.30-14.00 René León Rosales, Head of Research at the Mångkulturellt centrum, Botkyrka. *To Make Migration an Obvious Part of Swedish Cultural Heritage? Reflection on the Difficulties and Possibilities of Working with Diversity, Migration and National Self-image.*

14.00-14.30 Jonas Engman, FD, Head of the Nordic Museum Archives, *Digitalization, epistemology and collections - the challenges for research.*

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-15.30 Bodil Axelsson, Associate professor in Culture and Media Production, Linköping University. *Participatory Normativity, the Value of Digital Labour and New Forms of Ownership.*

15.30-16.00 Elisabeth Boogh, Curator of Photography Collections at the Stockholm County Museum & Kajsa Hartig, Head of Collections and Cultural Environments at Västernorrland County Museum in Sweden. *Collecting Social Digital Photography – Challenges for the Heritage Sector.*

16.00-17.00 Reflections and discussions.

The workshop is free. If you wish to participate in the event send an e-mail to Malin Thor Tureby malin.thor.tureby@liu.se The deadline for registration is October 10, 2018. There is a limited number of places; early expressions of interest to attend will be prioritized.

The workshop is financed by funding from Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) Cultural Heritage and The Swedish National Heritage Board.

Abstracts and speakers

Gil Pasternak, Ewa Manikowska & Malin Thor Tureby

DigiCONFLICT: Digital Heritage in Cultural Conflicts

DigiCONFLICT is an international research consortium funded by Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) Cultural Heritage (European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme) under grant agreement 699523. It will explore the impact of digital heritage on contemporary engagements with the past in specific national frameworks in Poland, Sweden and Israel. Focusing on oral history, photography and multimedia museums as some of the most common media used to digitalise cultural heritage, the project will endeavor to challenge widespread claims about the universality and democratising abilities of digital heritage. Even though digital heritage maintains the potential to increase cohesion across nations and social groups, it is equally used to cement elite power structures define what counts as cultural heritage, and determine whose cultural heritage is worthy of preservation. While acknowledging the role digital heritage plays in shaping and distributing cultural heritage, the project's point of departure is that digital heritage cannot be considered in separation from historical, cultural and national contexts. The project has three main aims: 1) to explore how national politics affect digital definitions of cultural heritage, 2) to investigate who creates and engages with digital heritage, and how, and 3) to study how the scope and value of cultural heritage are being negotiated and reformulated in a digital context.

Gil Pasternak is Reader in Social and Political Photographic Cultures in the Photographic History Research Centre at De Montfort University, UK. Gil is Project Leader of DigiCONFLICT and Principal Investigator in the DigiCONFLICT British Research Team.

Ewa Manikowska is Associate Professor in the Institute of Arts at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland. Ewa is Principal Investigator in the DigiCONFLICT Polish Research team.

Malin Thor Tureby is Associate Professor of History in the Department for Studies of Social Change and Culture (ISAK) at Linköping University, Sweden. Malin is Principal Investigator in the DigiCONFLICT Swedish Research team. She is of a co-founder of Oral History in Sweden (OHIS) and co-chair of the European Social Science Conference (ESSHC) Oral history and life stories network.

Anne Heimo

The Digital Heritage of the 1918 Finnish Civil War

The year 2018 marks the centennial of the 1918 Finnish Civil War and its' bloody aftermath. The war divided the people of Finland into two sides, the Reds and the Whites, for decades and effected Finnish society on every level and in long-lasting ways, some of which can still be acknowledged today. In my presentation I will discuss the digital heritage of the war and especially how the war is remembered and discussed on social media sites.

Adjunct professor Anne Heimo is a folklorist interested in everyday practices of memory and history making and heritage has a social process. She is the former chair of the Finnish Oral History Network (FOHN) and co-chair of the European Social Science Conference (ESSHC) Oral history and life stories network.

Björn Enes

Oral History, Citizen Science and Digital Heritage in Norway

I want to tell about my way into oral history: I concluded that the journalistic way of retelling the stories of the present, is insufficient - for future historians, as well as for the present audience. Journalistic stories have to be compressed and focused. In the process of “refining” reality for that aim, they lose nuances to such extent that they lose accuracy - sometimes they even become untrue. We have to live with that problem, because we need journalism. But it is very important to build and share collections of source materials that can adjust and sometimes contradict the mainstream stories, by “reintroduceing” those nuances and “other stories” or “stories behind the news”, for present as well as future participants in discourse.

To me, the most important and reliable sources are numbers of “normal” people, telling about the lives they live and have lived. Now – when it has become relatively cheap and simple - I think video recordings are far richer than only sound, and I think transcriptions are only useful as a tool for finding the original source material.

This view is challenging in at least four fields.

Ethically: In my opinion, the oral history interview must be regarded primarily as the *narrators' expression*. They have – or should have – and they use their freedom of expression, and the oral historian should respect their property rights and their rights to decide the use or not-use of their stories.

Infrastructure: Each oral historian needs access to tools that simplifies recording, backuping, cooperation, documentation, editing, catalogisation, archiving, publishing and dissemination of the stories, on their way from raw material to historic document and (eventually) published work.

Organisation: It is neither economic nor effective to leave the collection of oral history to professional researchers. There is a need for “citizen science” in this field – numbers of volunteers, and to define «new» roles for the professionals. I want to tell what I think is a lack of rationality in the Norwegian public organisation of the heritage field.

Funding: Most important, I think there is a need for reorganisation of the public heritage sector in Norway. Secondly, I think we could learn important things from Oral History Association in the US and from Story Corps: Funding of oral history does not have to come from public budgets alone.

Finally- I will conclude that Memoar has developed this view through «trying and failing». We have learnt a lot from Oral History Society in the UK, but we have also seen things we do not want to copy. By starting out in the digital age, we have less “analogue luggage”. May be, we have some original ideas that may prove to be good as well. Maybe we can even inspire others?

René León Rosales

To Make Migration an Obvious Part of Swedish Cultural Heritage? Reflection on the Difficulties and Possibilities of Working with Diversity, Migration and National Self-Image

René León Rosales is Head of Research at the Mångkulturellt centrum, Botkyrka. His dissertation, *On the hither side of the future* (2010), was an ethnographical study of the impacts of economic and ethnic segregation, policies and masculine ideals on boy's identity formations in a multi-ethnic school in northern Botkyrka, a suburb to Stockholm. He has since kept on dealing through different research projects with issues concerning how racialized hierarchies are negotiated in school and society in relation to a Swedishness that is created as normative through connections to whiteness, urban spaces and ways of talking Swedish. Current research projects deal with a) the emergence and politicization of youth movements from disadvantaged multi-ethnic neighbourhoods in Sweden's urban areas and b) the ethical and practical dilemmas connected with the gathering of data on ethnicity within the frames of public governance. As a researcher he has also supported processes started by the municipality of Botkyrka. He has supported the municipality's engagement within the network European Coalition of Cities against Racism, exploring the necessity to develop ethnically differentiated statistics in order to have a real idea of how racism affects different minorities. He has also conducted minor research projects for the municipality on the perceptions of elderly care among older people with foreign background and on common rumours circulating in the municipality that are counteracting intercultural processes.

Jonas Engman

Digitalization, epistemology and collections - the challenges for research.

As an ethnologist, I have mainly studied political and military ritualisations, but I also have an interest in history of science, collections and the connection to methodology and theoretical developments in the field of folklore research. In my presentation I will address the challenges for research in relation to digitalization both from the position as a researching ethnologist as well as from the position as Head of Archives at one Sweden's most important cultural heritage institutions.

Bodil Axelsson

Participatory Normativity, the Value of Digital Labour and New Forms of Ownership

Museums and heritage institutions are the guardians of societies' shared inheritance from the past. Their legitimacy depends on the preservation and dissemination of heritage for the public good. When they increasingly rely upon corporate platforms and search engines such as Facebook and Google for dissemination new questions arise about value extraction of public labour and the ownership of digitizations, interpretations and memories. This paper opens up for a discussion on heritage in the intersection of public and corporate spaces.

Bodil Axelsson is associate professor in Culture and Media Production, Linköping University. She is currently principal investigator in the project "In Orbit: Distributed Curatorial Agency when Museum Objects and Knowledge go Online". The project explores

the museums authority and the public's agency when curatorial operations such as selection, organization, interpretation and display of meaningful pasts are distributed between people and machinic computational process on corporate global platforms.

Elisabeth Boogh & Kajsa Hartig

Collecting Social Digital Photography – Challenges for the Heritage Sector

The Collecting Social Photo research project is a three-year (2017–2019) collaboration between museums and archives in Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The purpose of the project is to produce recommendations for collecting social digital photography in museums and archives. Partners are The Nordic Museum/Nordiska museet, Stockholm County Museum, The Finnish Museum of Photography and Aalborg City Archives. The project has not yet specifically discussed the expression of cultural heritage through social digital photography, but is primarily focusing on the medium, the social digital photograph as a continuation of analogy historical photography collections. Through the project the project team has seen that there is a need to re-define photography as we know it, as it has evolved from physical limited objects into complex assemblages of text, metadata and image, tightly connected with the social media channels they are shared through and the personal practices of the user. As part of online conversation, social digital photography is used in telling stories, sharing values and expressing culture. In the stories the image is just as an important component as text, along with hashtags and emojis, etc. These stories can also be deeply intertwined with physical events, such as for example the manifestations around #metoo in Sweden. One central conclusion from the project is that there is a great need of broad collecting initiatives involving a range of methods and perspectives. Working with online heritage requires changes in work practices, as well as reliable technical infrastructures and long-term strategies supported by the museum/archives management. This presentation will share the experiences so far, with examples from several shorter case studies that have been performed throughout the project. Project website: <http://collectingsocialphoto.nordiskamuseet.se>