The Popular Life of Things. Material Culture(s) and Popular Processes

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

AUGUSTYNOWICZ Nina: doctoral student and a part-time teaching assistant at the University of Silesia’s Institute of English Cultures and Literatures. Her research interests include, most importantly, food studies and Victorian studies. She is currently working on her dissertation on the topic of scientific and religious metaphors of consumption in 19th century Britain and the USA.

CZEMIEL Grzegorz: Lecturer in English, Irish and Literary Studies at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. Received his PhD at the University of Warsaw and specializes in contemporary Northern-Irish poetry, but also explores such topics as cartography, translation and urban studies, psychoanalysis and speculative realism in philosophy.

DAHLHEIM Mayannah: Research Assistant in the Department of Anglophone Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. She acquired her Magistra Artium in English Literature and Cultural Studies and Philosophy at the University of Regensburg in 2008. Postcolonial aftermaths, liminal spaces and cultural interfaces, as researched in Transcultural Studies, Globalization Theory and New English Literatures, belong to the core of her research interests.

DALVIT Lorenzo: MTN Chair of Media and Mobile Communication in the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University in Grahamstown (South Africa). His areas of academic interest include ICT-for-development, hyperlocal media, mobile services and localisation in African languages. As a visually impaired person, he is developing a research interest in mobile phones and disability. He coauthored over 100 publications and has supervised more than 30 students across various disciplines (Media Studies, Education, African Languages, Computer Science). He is involved in various ICT-for-development initiatives and international collaborations.

EUGSTER Benjamin: PhD candidate at the department of popular culture studies of the Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft at the University of Zürich. His PhD thesis focuses on tensions between individual appropriation and collective creativity in online video remix communities on YouTube. He was studying Popular Culture Studies, Film Studies and Czech Literature at the University of Zürich and the Univerzita Karlova Praha and finished his Master of Arts in 2013.
GÜNGÖR Sibel Aksu: received her bachelor’s degree in Architecture and worked as an architect for almost 15 years. It was her interest in collections and museums which made her study Arts Management as a graduate student. Even after she had two kids and in spite of her demanding professional life she did not give up thinking about objects, collecting and displaying. When she discovered that the right path to study collecting was through Anthropology, she decided to focus and quit her job. She is a PhD candidate at Yeditepe University. Her research topic is “The Cultural Dimensions and Values of Non-Systematic Collecting” and she is currently conducting fieldwork for her dissertation. She approaches the issue from an interdisciplinary perspective and discusses collecting both as a cultural and a behavioural phenomenon.

HALL Tiffany: PhD candidate in the Social and Cultural Analysis program at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Her master’s thesis examined the various social constructions of hoarding behaviour in order to develop a theoretical approach to hoarding within the discipline of sociology. Her current PhD research includes a focus on objects and their place and position in the social world. Specifically, her work examines how humans interact with objects in a world that has been altered by a postmodern disjuncture of time and space, and how those interactions impact human affect and emotion.

HARRINGTON C. Lee: Professor of Sociology and an Affiliate of the Comparative Media Studies Program at Miami University (Ohio, USA). She is co-author of Soap Fans: Pursuing Pleasure and Making Meaning in Everyday Life (1995) and Global TV: Exporting Television and Culture in the World Market (2008) and co-editor of Popular Culture: Production and Consumption (2001), Fandom: Identities and Communities in a Mediated World (2007), The Survival of Soap Operas: Transformations for a New Media Era (2010), and Aging, Media, Culture (in press). Her work on audiences, fans, and television studies has also been published in such journals as International Journal of Cultural Studies, Feminist Media Studies, Media, Culture & Society, and Television & New Media. Current research interests include aging, death, and media.

HELJAKKA Katriina: toy researcher and a D.A. in visual culture and a Master in both art history and economics. Her doctoral thesis was dedicated to the principles of adult playfulness in contemporary toy cultures. She currently holds a post-doc researcher position at University of Turku (digital culture studies) and continues her research on toys and the cultures of play. Heljakka's doctoral thesis can be downloaded as a pdf-version (for free) through the following link:


HOLMES David: Senior Lecturer in Communications and Media at Monash University, Melbourne. He has published four books in the sociology of culture communications field including two edited volumes: Virtual Politics: Identity and Community in Cyberspace (Sage 1997) and Virtual Globalisation: Virtual Spaces, Tourist Spaces (Routledge 2001), a monograph Communication Theory: Media, Technology and Society (Sage 2005) and a Key Concepts in Media and Communications (Sage 2011) co-authored with Paul Jones (UNSW)

JAMES David: Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Course Leader for Psychology/Sociology/Youth Studies/Criminology degree routes at University Campus Suffolk. David has a strong interest in social theory and social change, and leads modules on both within the sociology degree. David also leads a module on technology and society. Current interests include material culture and materiality as well as social scientific approaches to the study of technology. David is presently developing work on children and material culture.
LASAGE Frédérick: Assistant Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He completed his PhD research at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in 2009 on the topic of art/science research in the field of high performance computing, examining how artists and scientists collaborate to develop digital platforms. Prior to his appointment at SFU, Frédérick taught at King’s College London, the LSE, and the University of Cambridge. His current research interests are focused on applying mediation theory to our understanding of how consumer-driven creative digital tools like Photoshop are designed and used. He is a regular contributor to the Canadian Media Fund’s Trendscape blog and his research has been published in international journals including Leonardo, Digital Creativity, Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media and Convergence (in press).

LEE Joanne: Brighton-based artist, writer and publisher. Her work uses words and pictures to explore a curiosity about everyday life and the ordinary places in which she lives and works. Much of her activity emerges through a series of publications under the imprint of the Pam Flett Press, where she explores the visual, verbal and temporal possibilities of the ‘essay’, and via the opportunities for production that arise in dialogue with creative and critical friends. She is Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University. http://www.joannelee.info/

LINARES Nicolas Llano Linares: PhD candidate in the Communication and Arts School (ECA) at the University of São Paulo (USP). His research interests are food and material culture, media discourses of gastronomic and culinary practices and visual culture studies. He is one of the organizers of the upcoming collection of papers presented in the IX International Seminar of Image Culture – Cultural Images (2013). Member of the research group GESC3: Semiotic studies in Communication, culture and consumption since 2010.

MACIULEWICZ Joanna: Assistant Professor at the Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland). Her research interest include History of the Book and literature of the long eighteenth century. She is currently working on a post-doctoral book on the representation of book culture in eighteenth-century literature.

SARNEK Marcin: teaches American history and culture, American literature, and multimedia at the Institute of English Cultures and Literatures, University of Silesia. He has written on the presence of cryptographic technologies in American society and their privacy related applications, attempting to situate these not only within their constitutional framework, but also within a wider spectrum of cultural sensitivity to them. This work was planned and executed as an illustration of more ubiquitous concerns of global implications: the impacts of digital technologies and their discourses upon individual and communal civil rights. As one of significant contemporary uses of cryptography is that within the “intellectual property” industries, he was prompted to research the effect of intellectual property regulations, and of “copyrights debates” (with their First Amendment implications) on creativity and speech rights – a theme that has become central to his current work.

SOČKO Joanna: PhD student at the Department of Comparative Literatures, Institute of Polish Studies, University of Silesia. She graduated in both Polish and English. Four times she was granted the scholarship of the Minister of Science and Higher Education. Her research interests embrace post-secular studies and geocriticism. Her PhD project is devoted to the poetry of R.S. Thomas; her research is financed by the National Science Center of Poland.

STOPEL Bartosz: PhD candidate at the University of Silesia. His research focuses on bridging contemporary literary theories with analytic aesthetics and cognitive literary studies.
STOREY John: Professor of Cultural Studies at the Centre for Research in Media and Cultural Studies, University of Sunderland, UK. He has published extensively in cultural studies, including ten books. He is currently working on a seventh edition of *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture* and an edited collection called *The Making of Popular Culture*. His work has been translated into Arabic, Chinese, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Ukrainian, and he has been invited to give more than forty keynote papers in countries around the world. He is also on editorial/advisory boards in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and USA, and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna, the University of Henan and the University of Wuhan.

TWARDOCH Ewelina: PhD candidate at Jagiellonian University (Institut of Audiovisual Arts) and SET-program. It is a third year of study. She took part in many national and international conferences, she published her articles in many periodicals (“Przegląd kulturoznawczy”, “Kultura popularna”, “Kultura i historia”, “Topos”). She was an editor of four scientific books (the last one is “Perception of culture – culture of perception”). Her PhD dissertation concerns the representations and functions of biometrical data in new technologies art.

VODANOVIC Lucia: Lecturer in the School of Media and Performing Arts at Middlesex University, London (UK). Her research interests focus on the ideas of obsolescence and ephemerality, with a strong emphasis on the materiality of culture. More recently, she has researched the importance of amateurism, its links with forms of self-reliance, social aesthetics and the wider discussion of how knowledge is produced and distributed. She is part of the London Critical Thought collective, which puts together an annual interdisciplinary and inter-institutional conference in London using a non-hierarchical structure, and is now in the process of launching a journal of contemporary critical theory. Lucia’s edited collection, Disturbios Culturales, was published in 2012, and her work has also been featured in journals and publications such as Invisible Culture, M-C Journal and Journal of Visual Art Practice.

WALTON David: Senior Lecturer and coordinator of cultural studies at the University of Murcia and has taught courses on popular cultures, postmodern cultures, the history of thought, and literary and cultural theory. He currently teaches courses on cultural theory and cultural practice at undergraduate level, and comparative postmodern literatures and cultures at master’s level. He is a founder member, and currently President, of the Iberian Association of Cultural Studies (IBACS), which is dedicated to the promotion of the area on the Iberian Peninsula. He has published widely in cultural theory, cultural studies and visual cultures. His books include *Critical Approaches to Literature in English* (1997), *Four Fragments of British Culture* (1997) and *Culture and Power: Ac(unofficial)knowledging Cultural Studies in Spain* (2002). He has published two books for SAGE: *Introducing Cultural Studies: Learning Through Practice* (2008) and his new book, *Doing Cultural Theory* (2012). He has recently published chapters on new sexualities, the satire of Chris Morris, graffiti culture and the interfaces between philosophy and cultural studies. He has also organized a number of conferences, including the sixteenth international IBACS conference entitled ‘Culture and Power: Spaces’, which was held in the University of Murcia in October of 2013.