

History 7910
Fall 2018
Tulane University
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Into the Archive: Sources and the Practice of History

This seminar introduces advanced graduate students to the art and craft of history (historical research methods and writing) by way of select methodological and theoretical works, tour-de-force monographs, literary reflections, and actual archival materials in printed, manuscript, and digital forms. Put another way, it is a course about learning to read critically the (mostly written) products of the past before we write about them. Students will write 3 short comparative essays and an archival paper of c.20-25pp.

Readings:

Burns, Kathryn. *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

Cercas, Javier. *Anatomy of a Moment: Thirty-five Minutes in History & Imagination*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011.

Clendinnen, Inga. *Dancing with Strangers: Europeans and Australians at First Contact*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Davis, Natalie Zemon. *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and Their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1990.

Farge, Arlette. *The Allure of the Archives*. trans. Thomas Scott-Railton. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013.

Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Night Battles: Witchcraft & Agrarian Cults in the 16th & 17th Centuries*. trans. Anne and John Tedeschi. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983.

Multatuli, *Max Havelaar, or the Coffee Auctions of the Dutch Trading Company*. trans. Roy Edwards. New York: Penguin Classics, 1995.

Price, Richard. *Alabi's World*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.

Stoler, Ann Laura. *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.

Thompson, E.P. *Whigs and Hunters: The Origin of the Black Act*. New York: Pantheon, 1975.

Tortorici, Zeb. *Sins against Nature: Sex and Archives in Colonial New Spain*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.

CLASS SESSIONS:

Week 1. Detection & Collection: Historians' work and the work of archives

read: Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles*, and U.S. Census Bureau "History"

Week 2. An eye for telling detail? An historian reads against the archival grain

read: Inga Clendinnen, *Dancing with Strangers* and "Reading Mr. Robinson"

Week 3. A life of their own? An historian seduced by the archives

read: Arlette Farge, *The Allure of the Archives*

Week 4. Sex, Lies, and Notary Books: an historian's quest for the truth about power

read: Kathryn Burns, *Into the Archive*

Week 5. An anthropologist bucks the trend and reads "along the archival grain"

read: Ann Laura Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain*, & Multatuli, *Max Havelaar*

week 6. Do you remember? Two historians explore past archives of the mind

read: Natalie Zemon Davis, *Fiction in the Archives*, and Jonathan Spence, *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci*

Week 7. What were they thinking? A historian seeks sin in the archives

read: Zeb Tortorici, *Sins Against Nature*

Week 8. An historian discovers (or does he?) class warfare in the archives

read: E.P. Thompson, *Whigs and Hunters*

Week 9. Runaway Archives: An anthropologist chases down every lead

read: Richard Price, *Alabi's World*

Week 10. An anthropologist explains why the revolution has not been televised

read: Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past*, and Christopher Clark, "Power"

Week 11. A novelist dissects a (televised - and failed) coup d'état

read: Javier Cercas, *The Anatomy of a Moment*

Week 12. Historical fieldwork, part I: Into the library (books, journals, digital)

Week 13. Historical fieldwork, part II: Into the library (rare printed matter)

Week 14. Historical fieldwork, part III: Into the (manuscript) archive

Week 15. Final Papers due, Coffee Talk

Some other books:

Benjamin, Walter. *The Arcades Project*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2002.

Bloch, Marc. *The Historian's Craft*. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 1992.

Blouin, Francis X. *Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Burton, Antoinette, ed. *Archive Stories: Facts, Fictions, and the Writing of History*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Ginzburg, Carlo. *Threads and Traces. True, False, Fictive*. trans. John & Anne Tedeschi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

Ginzburg, Carlo. *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*. trans. John & Anne Tedeschi. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.

Jimerson, Randall. *Archives Power: Memory, Accountability, and Social Justice*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2009.

Kelley, Donald R. *Frontiers of History: Historical Inquiry in the Twentieth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.

Koselleck, Reinhart. *Sediments of Time. Of Possible Histories*. trans. & ed. Sean Franzel & Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2018.

Lockhart, James. *Of Things of the Indies: Essays Old and New in Early Latin American History*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2000.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Memory, History, Forgetting*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Roque, Ricardo, and Kim A. Wagner, eds. *Engaging Colonial Knowledge: Reading European Archives in World History*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Rublack, Ulinka, ed. *A Concise Companion to History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Schwartz, Stuart. *All Can Be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.

White, Hayden. *The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.