

CALL FOR SMALL STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

for the MA course Archiving Art, Sept. – Dec. 2021

Dep. of Arts & Culture, Fac. of Humanities, University of Amsterdam

Co-ordinator: dr. Hannah Bosma, h.m.bosma@uva.nl

We are looking for archival or cultural organizations to provide one or more small research questions/projects to be integrated in the interdisciplinary 12-ects MA course Archiving Art.

The projects are for an international and interdisciplinary group of highly motivated students from Theatre Studies, Music Studies, Art History, Museum Studies, Heritage Studies, Arts & Culture, Media Studies, etc. The students are expected to work on these projects in small groups of ca. three students during ca. three months for ca. eight hours a week.

The course Archiving Art has an interdisciplinary perspective and consists of two strands:

1. lectures and literature;
2. small collaborative group projects with cultural or archival organizations, in small groups.

For the collaborative projects, the students will have to meet and work with their small group every week; the course lecturers will have contact with these groups regularly. The students will present and discuss their project during the course and in a final presentation. The form of the end product of the collaborative project will be discussed with the cultural organization and could be, for example, a short report, a blog or a workshop. In their individual final papers, the students have to reflect on their project and relate their project to the theoretical issues discussed in the literature.

The projects and research questions we are looking for:

- ask the students to do research for, with and/or in the archival or cultural organization;
- may provide real added value for this organization;
- are flexible and feasible (also in this COVID-19 period) in ca. three months eight hours per week.

We expect from the organizations that their contact person(s):

- will come to a seminar in the beginning of the course to give a short presentation about the organization and their research question;
- will have contact with the student group and the co-ordinator or another lecturer during the course at least three times (start, middle, end) and give feedback;
- will come to the seminar with the group presentations in December and give feedback.

The seminars are planned on location in Amsterdam on Thursdays 15h00-18h00, but meetings may take place online as well, and probably (some of) the students would be happy to visit your organization; this depends of course on the development of the Covid-19 pandemic and the situation of the participants – we are flexible and open to discuss other arrangements.

We would be happy to discuss your suggestions and questions with you.

Course information

ARCHIVING ART: PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW 2021-2022

Level: MA

Credits: 12 ECTS

Academic year: 2021 – 2022

Time period: blocks 1 & 2, September – December 2021

Workload for students: ca. 336 (320 – 360) hours (14 weeks of ca. 20 h/w + paper)

Language: English (students doing this course as an elective in a Dutch Masters' programme are allowed to write their individual paper in Dutch)

Entry requirements: BA in Humanities or Bachelor in other, related disciplines

Teaching methods: Seminars with lectures and literature study and small collaborative group projects with cultural organizations.

Co-ordinator: dr. Hannah Bosma, h.m.bosma@uva.nl

Lecturers: dr. Hannah Bosma, dr. Veronika Zangl, dr. Giulia Damiani + guest lecturers

Location: room 0.08 BG2 (UvA, Turfdraagsterpad 15-17, 1012 XT Amsterdam), online, external visits (archives and cultural organizations); depending on COVID-19 policy.

DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary module on “Archiving Art” addresses students from all art-related Master programs from across the Humanities at the University of Amsterdam, as well as students from other, related disciplines. Its main objective is to provide its participants with an overview of and critical perspective on theoretical, historical as well as practical aspects of archiving the arts. Therefore, the module aims at bringing together expert voices from Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies. It shall provide its participants with a better understanding of the specific challenges in archiving art today. The course will be taught from an interdisciplinary perspective and consists of two strands: 1) theoretical: consisting of lectures and reading and discussion of literature; 2) practical: consisting of small collaborative projects with cultural or archival organizations, in small groups.

Specification of aims:

Against the backdrop of the Digital Revolution, its practices as well as its phantasms of global connectivity and availability, archiving has become a contested terrain during the last decades. Archive theorists have challenged the traditional understanding of the archive as a stable and ‘innocent’ repository for documents and monuments of all kinds. A new awareness for the materiality and mediality in archival processes, for the historic specificity of archives and archive-specific epistemologies arose. Furthermore, ‘archiving’ became a key term for artistic historiographies in theatre, film, music and art practice, challenging archival processes both from the inside and from the outside of archival institutions. This module sets out to explore concepts and practices as well as the significance of archiving the arts in times of digitization. The course will deal with the conditions, complexities and possibilities of the archival model in the past, present and near future and depart from the lecturers’ current research and specialization. By combining theoretical insights with practical experiences, the students will learn to deal with the “messy” realities of actual archives and art practices, to relate this to the topics discussed in the academic literature, and to critically reflect on both.