Beyond Text in the Digital Age? Oral History, Images and the Written Word

FRI 8 & SAT 9 JULY 2016
Whitelands College, University of Roehampton

www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/

This interdisciplinary conference will explore innovative and exciting uses of oral history. Speakers will investigate how media such as images, film and digital technologies are interacting with text.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Alessandro Portelli
Professor of Anglo-American literature at the University of Rome La Sapienza and author of ground-breaking oral history texts such as The Death of Luigi Trastulli and Other Stories.

Mary Larson
Associate dean for special collections at the Oklahoma State University Library.

Anne Valk
Associate director for public humanities at Williams College and president of the Oral History Association.

To book, go to http://tinyurl.com/zlnccdoe
### Conference Programme

#### Friday 8 July

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<td>10.00-10.15</td>
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<td>10.15-11.15</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
<td>Alessandro Portelli</td>
<td>We are not going back: Migrant music and memory in Italy</td>
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<td>11.15-11.30</td>
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<td>11.30-13.00</td>
<td>Parallel sessions</td>
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<td><strong>Transcription in the digital age</strong></td>
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<td>Symbiosis: How text and media collaborate in a modern oral history collection</td>
<td>Steven Sielaff</td>
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<td>Disrupting settler knowledge systems through oral history</td>
<td>Bianca Ayanna Suárez</td>
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<td><strong>Social Media 1: Oral history in cyberspace</strong></td>
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<td>Meme over memory: The archive on social media and oral history performance</td>
<td>Farah Yameen and Soumyadip Ghosh</td>
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<td>Sending all the right messages: Expanding access to oral history through social media</td>
<td>Juliana Nykolaiszyn</td>
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<td>Don’t log off</td>
<td>Alan Dein</td>
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<td><strong>Panel presentation</strong></td>
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<td>Everyday reading in Sheffield 1930-1955: The Reading Sheffield Project</td>
<td>Mary Grover, Val Hewson, Eleanor Brown</td>
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<td><strong>Oral and written sources</strong></td>
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<td>The relationship between the oral and the written in The Last Survivors of Hiroshima, a PhD for the Open University</td>
<td>Elizabeth Chappell</td>
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<td>Warsaw Uprising and women’s oral history: Comparative analysis of the interviews of the oral history and books based on oral stories</td>
<td>Agata Stolartz</td>
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<td>“No es facil” (It’s not easy): A two-pronged analysis of Cuban women’s employment in post-Soviet Cuba</td>
<td>Daliany Kersh</td>
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FRIDAY 8 JULY continued

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Parallel sessions

Accessibility
The body is an archive: Oral history, embodied experience and digital media
Melissa Madera and Laura Harris
Hidden now heard: Mencap Cymru & St Fagan’s National History Museum
Paul Hunt
Memory, interpretation and inclusion: The challenges of capturing life stories with profoundly disabled non-verbal adults by adapting oral history methodologies
Noelle McCormack

Archiving
Using oral testimony as a search tool in the National Drought Inventory:
Why text and audio are still equally important
Rebecca Pearce
Creating belt and braces histories: combining tangible and intangible heritage in a digital archive
Dan Ellin
Young people as oral historians: Recording and archiving the history of Velvet Fist (1983 – 2013)
Rosa Kurowska Kyffin

Words and images
“You made me read a book about an otter:” Recording and reflecting on the rereading of Gavin Maxwell’s Ring of Bright Water
Sarah Pyke
Combining oral history and photography to make art
Maxine Beuret
Future proofing the Femorabilia Special Collection
Nickianne Moody

Panel presentation
Nehiyawak Iskwewak kiskinwahamâtowin (Cree women learning): Working with the oral histories of our people in the mainstream
Miriam McNab
Tasha Hubbard
Winona Wheeler

15.30 – 15.45 Tea/coffee break

To book, go to http://tinyurl.com/zlncdcde
15.45 – 17.15 **Parallel sessions**

**Ethics 1: Representation and marginalised identities**
- *The perils of the recording: Ethical issues in oral history with ‘vulnerable’ populations*
  - Jane Traies
- *Preserving ‘the humanity of the individual survivor’: The dilemmas of using online recordings with holocaust survivors*
  - Angela Davis

**Reflections on practice**
- *Finding a voice: A writer’s response to oral history archives*
  - Helen Foster
- *A language for listening*
  - Sue Bradley
- *A life in sound: The sounds and stories of Paul Graney*
  - Fiona Cosson and David Govier

**Materiality**
- *The integration problem: Using oral history as supplementary evidence*
  - Ann-Marie Foster
- *Bernat Klein: Artist, textile designer and industrialist (1922 – 2014)*
  - Alison Harley
- *Digital Rapture? Confounding expectations in the digital oral history archive*
  - Clíona O’Carroll

**Higher education strand: teaching and learning oral history in academia**
- *It’s not just for archivists: Oral history teaching and the connected curriculum at UCL*
  - Andrew Flinn
- *Background, evolution and issues in an online oral history course*
  - Craig Fees
- *Teaching oral history in a clinical social work doctoral programme*
  - Theresa Aiello

17.30 – 18.45 **Public event**

**Life stories in the ‘Jungle’**
This session will showcase UEL’s life stories course in the Calais ‘Jungle’ refugee camp. The course combines photography, art, textual materials and writing. The event will include contributions from artists, photographers and poets, in the UK and France, who have moved ‘beyond text’ to map out their lives.

Chair: Dr Aura Lounasmaa of the Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London
All welcome

18.45 – 19.30 **Wine reception**
All welcome

19.30 **Conference dinner**
Booking required
Venue: The Queen Adelaide, Putney. Transportation will be provided.

To book, go to http://tinyurl.com/zlncdoe
SATURDAY 9 JULY

09.45  Registration desk opens (tea/coffee available)

10.00 – 11.00  Plenary  
Annie Valk  
Mapping memories: sites, sounds, and stories

11.00 – 11.15  Tea/coffee

11.15 – 12.45  Parallel sessions
Social media 2: Marginalised voices and getting the word out
Oral history, small stories and new media: a multimodal approach to narratives of Catalan national identity  
Mandie Iveson  
Bitesize histories in the age of Twitter  
Judith Garfield  
Letting the subaltern speak: Utilising oral history and social media to dispel the myths, historical inaccuracy, invisibility and silence of Native Americans in the dominant narratives and popular memory in the United States  
Robert Durdin

Multimedia
An evening back home in a Karelian village: Analyzing deictic elements of video recorded family history  
Jyrki Poysa  
The Projection Project: Digitising memories and the malleability of history  
Richard Wallace  
Cinema: Presenting history in a popular location  
Achim Saur

Space and place
Talking New Towns: Oral history between objects and pixels  
Grete Dalum-Tilds  
Constructing a constructivist oral history walking tour: Challenges and opportunities  
Rina Benmayor  
The Memory Mosaic: Embedding audio recordings in exhibitions  
Helen Kingstone

12.45 – 14.30  Lunch

13.00 – 14.15  Annual general meeting of the Oral History Society (all welcome)
Film screening:  
Alone Together, the Social Life of Benches, a documentary by Esther Johnson

14.30 – 15.30  Plenary  
Mary Larson  
What media really mean: Implications of the move from analog to digital

15.30 – 15.45  Tea/coffee break

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15.45 – 17.15  **Parallel sessions**

**New digital frontiers**
*Beyond transcription: The audio visual ‘book’ of the future*
Steven Dryden
*Building a new model of oral sources on European integration*
Susana Muñoz
*Home crafters and the blogosphere: Making clothes and very material histories?*
Helen Pleasance

**Commemoration and memorialisation**
*Beyond the wire, behind the garage: The Australian War Memorial’s oral history and portrait commission*
Stephanie Boyle
*Oral history and education on the web: How to use oral history in education of youth and adults via digital medias*
Joanna Król and Klara Jackl
*Commemorating the centennial of independent Finland online*
Anne Heimo, Finland

**Authors and writing**
*Beyond text in the literary history? Oral histories as literary histories*
Joanna Maj
*Staging a dance between text and voice in oral history work, from the 1970s to today*
Laura Mitchison and Rosa Vilibr

**Ethics 2: Process and practice**
*Sharing oral history recordings with Arctic indigenous communities in the ORHELIA Project*
Stephan Dudeck and Lukas Allemann
*Consent forms, a new asset in the digital oral history toolkit?*
Myriam Fellous-Sigrist
*Orphan oral histories: Ethical issues in its digital preservation and online dissemination*
Gabby Dempster

17.15 – 17.30  **Closing remarks**

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