

Institute for Culture and Society in conjunction with the Digital Humanities Research Group

Digital Life Research Seminar

Date: Tuesday 2 December 2014

Time: 11am – 4pm

Venue: EZ.2.14 (Elizabeth Macquarie room), Parramatta (South) Campus

Program

- **11am – 1pm:** *Professor Roger Burrows, Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London*
- **1pm – 2pm:** *Lunch*
- **2pm – 4pm:** *Associate Professor Michael Darroch, Media Art Histories and Visual Culture, University of Windsor*

RSVP to Christy Nguy (c.nguy@uws.edu.au) by **27 November** so that catering can be organised.

Professor Roger Burrows, Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London

'Living by Numbers? Metrics, Algorithms and the Sociology of Everyday Life'

Abstract

This talk will focus on the role digital data has in restructuring our everyday lives. As individuals, we are all too aware of the identities created for us by business and commerce based on what, when and how we buy. As professionals, we are faced with a growing number of performance metrics influencing work targets and strategy. The reactions to such data deluges and their possible consequences will be examined in two examples likely to be of interest to the audience – city life and academic labour.

Biography

Roger Burrows is Professor of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London where he is also currently Pro-Warden for Interdisciplinary Development. He is the author of over 130 articles, chapters, books and reports ranging across urban studies, social media, health and illness, the body, consumption, political economy and migration. His research current interests are in the fields of: the social life of methods; the public life of data; the urban consequences of the 'super-rich'; and algorithmic power in the academy.

Associate Professor Michael Darroch, Media Art Histories and Visual Culture, School of Creative Arts, University of Windsor

'Patterns that Connect: Scholarly Networks across Transatlantic Media Studies'

Abstract

This talk traces the largely unacknowledged contributions of Edward Snow Carpenter, Co-Director and founder of *Explorations* as its chief editor. From the 1940s, Carpenter was exposed to anthropological study that advocated humanistic, poetic, and artistic approaches to documenting cultures and cultural memory through multiple media (photography, film, sound, literary and visual arts) and that opposed positivist ideals of value-free scientific anthropological research. He was involved with CBC radio and television in the late 1940s and 1950s, contributing his studies of visual media and indigenous cultures to the very shape that media studies would take during this period. He committed himself to research and pedagogy crossing the boundaries of media studies and anthropology by drawing upon theoretical vocabularies from across humanities, fine arts, social and natural sciences. His later media experiments among peoples of Papua New Guinea (1969) and his monumental re-evaluation of art historian and anthropologist Carl Schuster's unfinished analysis of cultural patterns across ancient symbolism (12 volumes, 1986-88) led him to produce a series of radical pronouncements about visual anthropology's role in creating comparative frameworks within broader media and cultural studies, and the interdisciplinary and experimental methods needed for studying contemporary culture and cultural memory (Carpenter 1975). Carpenter's emphasis on 'patterns that connect' different forms of cultural expressivity across space, time, and media lends itself in particular to the creation of a digital archive.

Biography

Associate Professor Michael Darroch teaches in Media Art Histories and Visual Culture, School of Creative Arts, University of Windsor. He holds a PhD from McGill University in Art History and Communication Studies. He is currently a Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory, Institute for Modern Languages Research, University of London. His most recent publications include *Cartographies of Place: Navigating the Urban*, co-edited with Janine Marchessault (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014). He was recently awarded a successful SSHRCH Insight Grant for a project titled, *Patterns the Connect: Re-Curating Edmund Carpenter's Anthropological Media Studies, 2012-16*.