



Mobile Culture

Multilocal Cultural Practices



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«Mobile Cultures»
Multilocal cultural practices

Book of abstracts

© Department of Cultural Anthropology
Karl Franzens University Graz, Graz

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Scientific Research Centre of the
Slovenian Academy of Sciences
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**Mobile
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Introduction

Mobile Culture

Multilocal Cultural Practices

The present workshop aims to find the guiding research question for the intended Austrian-Slovenian project regarding multilocal practices and cultures.

Aims of the workshop:

- To establish an overview of research being done in Slovenia and Austria having the capacity to converge into a cooperative Mobile Culture research project;
- To find clues for empirical studies in Mobile Culture that consider ethnographic, historical and everyday culture perspectives;
- To evaluate the fields of biographical research capable of supporting in-depth ethnographic work;
- To produce and publish a working paper that assesses the theoretical questions which support the research and locate the fieldwork for a funding request.

Common reading:

http://www.mobileculturestudies.com/MCSJ/thieme_2008_multi-local_settings.pdf





Schedule

Workshop Friday, June 14, 2013

10:00	Opening of the meeting premises with coffee
11:00	Welcome Johanna Rolshoven , Head of department, Cultural Anthropology, Karin Schmidlechner , Contemporary History, University of Graz; Jurij Fikfak , Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana
11:15	Justin Winkler , <i>Introduction</i>
11:45	Susan Thieme , <i>Multiple mobilities in transnational work biographies</i> . invited lecture
12:45	Lunch break
13:30	Karin Schmidlechner , <i>Gender and migration</i> Johanna Rolshoven , <i>Are women sedentary? Reflections on the historicity of a contemporary phenomenon</i> Jurij Fikfak , <i>Livelihood strategies and practices on the border</i>
15:00	Coffee break
15:15	Ute Sonleitner , <i>Charwomen – considerations on domestic-care workers and their experiences of multilocality</i> Nina Vodopivec , <i>Invisible survival strategies: women in socialism crossing borders</i> Petra Testen , <i>Gorizian housemaids in the 19th and 20th centuries. Case studies</i>
16:30	Coffee break
16:45	Miha Kozorog , <i>Production of locality. Day workers on the border</i> Tatiana Bajuk Senčar , <i>The cultural construction of work among multilocal actors</i> Saša Poljak Istenič , <i>"Technology of entering". Language proficiency and social status of workers in the host family</i>
18:00	Discussion





Evaluation session

Saturday, June 15, 2013

8:30	Opening of the meeting premises
9:00	Justin Winkler , <i>Summary, Feedback, and Research Strategies</i> Discussion and evaluation
10:00	Break
10:30	Discussion, evaluation and text editing
12:30	Closure

**Place: Seminar room,
Institut für Volkskunde/
Kulturanthropologie
der Karl-Franzens
University Graz,
Attemsgasse 25,
ground floor, Graz**





Abstracts

Susan Thieme

Multiple mobilities in transnational work biographies Concepts and questions

Worldwide, an increasing number of people are diversifying their income sources through migration. Such mobility in most cases involves only parts of the family migrating, and this results in people's livelihoods taking on a multi-local dimension. Scholars have been studying this increasing mobility and multi-locality by applying either a livelihoods approach or one of transnational migration, but they rarely combine the two. However, one major criticism of both approaches is that they do not make the link to other existing social theories and therefore do not permit any fundamental analysis of the relationship between the subject and society, the power relations within a society and the changes effected by human mobility to power relations. To address this criticism, I shall discuss the existing innovative research and propose Bourdieu's Theory of Practice as a means to fill this theoretical gap. The author's article from *Mobilities* 3(1) 2008, available at http://www.mobileculturestudies.com/MCSJ/thieme_2008_multi-local_settings.pdf is the central common reading for workshop participants.

Susan Thieme is currently Docent at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich/Switzerland. Her areas of specialization are migration and society, social theory, multi-locality, student mobility, gender, age & generation, knowledge, social-finance. She has worked in Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan and has produced a documentary on migration in Kyrgyzstan. A National Centre of Competence in Research North-South and Panos South Asia production, <http://www.north-south.unibe.ch/content.php/page/id/243>.





Abstracts

Karin Schmidlechner

Gender and migration

In the late 1970s, the first studies dealing with women in the migration process were published. An important outcome of these studies was that women were as likely as men to migrate. Since then, female migrants have been the subject of many studies on gender and migration. These studies also examined the characteristics of migrating women, the timing of their migration from sending communities and their adaptation process in the receiving societies. In my presentation I am first going to give an overview of the development of the topic in the last decades. After that I will be focusing on methodological and trans- and interdisciplinary approaches, as well as on recent trends in this subfield, thereby outlining the most distinctive streams of gender and migration research, among them studies on borderlands and migration.

Karin Schmidlechner is currently Professor of Contemporary History and Women's Studies at Graz University. She has been Visiting Professor at University of Minneapolis, MN and University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Chair of the Centre for Gender History in Graz and of the Women's Documentation and Project Centre Graz.





Abstracts

Johanna Rolshoven

Are women sedentary? Reflections on the historicity of a contemporary phenomenon

The debate on mobility and motility is comparatively devoid of gender considerations and of a discussion of the concept of sedentariness. In historical and biographical concepts of time, women appear to be variably sedentary respectively mobile, whereas ideologically they are believed to be sedentary. A cultural definition of sedentary life is still to be supplied. Is a person “sedentary” if they live at the same address for twenty years, but as a daily commuter are absent from this place two fifths of their time, or if they reside in a second home for a couple of months?

By raising these questions this article wants to propose an example of cultural studies of multilocality. The question it poses is, to what extent do experiences of mobility nourish cultural dynamics, that is, to what extent do changes in location result in cognitive and imaginary mobilities and hence cultural changes?

Johanna Rolshoven is Professor for Cultural Anthropology and Head of the department of Cultural Anthropology at Graz University. Since 1990 she has researched and taught at universities in Basel, Frankfurt am Main, Fribourg, Hamburg, Joensuu, Marburg, Neuchâtel, Turku, and Zurich; and held Visiting Professorships in Hamburg, Marburg and Innsbruck. Between 2004-2008 she was Scientific Director of the Centre for Cultural Studies in Architecture at the Architecture Department of ETH Zurich.

Focus: everyday culture, mobilities, multilocality, material culture, technology, biography, youth studies, science studies, visual studies, town-space-culture studies.





Abstracts

Jurij Fikfak

Livelihood strategies and practices on the border

On the example of the border between Yugoslavia and Italy, later Slovenia and Italy, in four different chronotopes: before the First World War, between the two world wars, in the time of socialism, and in the new state Slovenia; the issues of migration, mobile cultures, livelihood strategies and practices will be discussed.

The first is the Austro-Hungarian chronotope, in which case the main difference between migration from the Hinterland to centres like Trieste-Triest, Gorizia-Goerz can be defined as a difference between the rural periphery – hinterland and the urbanized centre. The second chronotope is during fascism, in Italy, which under the Rapallo treatment governed not only the city of Trieste, but also the Slovenian periphery; the third chronotope is defined through the political division of two political systems: the capitalist and the communist/socialist; and the fourth with Slovenia as an independent country within NATO, the European Union, etc.

Since the migration dynamics and discourses of each chronotope built a new configuration, in conducting research we can use the phrase “mobile targets demand a mobile researcher”.

Jurij Fikfak is Associate Professor at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts; and Visiting Professor in Graz and Vienna. He studied in Slovenia, Germany and the United States. He has (co-)organized numerous international conferences; is Co-editor-In-Chief of the *Traditiones* Journal, of the *Ethnologica* Dissertation series, and of *Opera Ethnologica Slovenica*. He was Co-Director of the seminars *Interpretation und Verstehen* at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik. Main research interests: ritual practices, the history of ethnology and cultural anthropology, research methodologies – especially various forms of qualitative and semiotic analysis.





Abstracts

Ute Sonnleitner

Diligent Styrian girls and boys in Switzerland 1945-1955

Perspectives of an historical migration-research

Current research of 'modern' migration movements shows significant new trends among which the Feminization of migration appears to be the most remarkable one. "Growing demand for labour power in the domestic work sector" can be named as the main reason for this development. From the 1960s onwards in Austria / Styria it was no longer the "girl from the country", searching "for her luck" in the city, but women from abroad who were doing the "dirty work". A global "care chain" built by women emerged – their way of life was very often shaped by "multilocality". Within the planned project, Slovenian charwomen's concepts of living shall be questioned. How is "multilocality" interpreted by women who are concerned not only in their own "private life" but also in their jobs as they are connected to different households by doing the "care work".

Ute Sonnleitner has earned her PhD degree with the dissertation "Resistance against 'Austro-Fascism' in Styria 1933-1938". She is currently lecturer at the Institute of contemporary history at Karl-Franzens-University Graz and she also coordinates the PhD programme "Migration-Diversity-Global Communities".





Abstracts

Nina Vodopivec

Invisible survival strategies Women in socialism crossing borders

The presentation will focus on ideas, aims, objectives, and deriving points for the collaborative project proposal by the Institute of Contemporary History (Slovenia). The aim is to explore multilocality in the form of an invisible economy from a gender perspective through life stories of women, and as a survival family strategy in socialism. The focus is not merely on collecting cross border experience in Styria, and mapping invisible forms of economies. By recognizing these forms as everyday strategies, and as such as important constituents of identity formations processes, the goal is to better understand the production of locality, notions of home and feelings of belonging. The objective is to capture the complexities and multifacetedness of cross border experiences and the multi-gendered aspects of multi-local practices (multilocalities).

Nina Vodopivec (PhD in Social Anthropology) works as a researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History in Ljubljana. Her research interests focus on industrial workers in socialism and postsocialism, organization of labour, meanings of work, memory and gender studies.





Abstracts

Petra Testen

Gorizian housemaids in the 19th and 20th century ***Case studies***

The border territory between today's Slovenia and Italy offers an interesting geographical area for the study of domestic and care work in the 19th and 20th centuries. A longer time perspective reveals continuities and discontinuities in the sphere of domestic and care work and in the forms of mobility and migration of the younger female population. The presentation – a case study of Gorizian housemaids – will focus on everyday strategies, mechanisms of adaptation in the new (and the impact on the local-home) environments and on the role of the national factor in the mechanisms of control. This material will provide the starting point for a similar analysis in Styria, which will allow an insight into female labour through the pairs previously-today, global-local, centre-periphery, public-private, continuity-change etc. In the future, such an analysis will enable the crossing of national and social borders by these women to be put in a clearer perspective.

Petra Testen (PhD in History) works as a researcher at the Institute of Cultural History in Ljubljana. Her research interests focus on the field of cultural history, oral history, history of everyday life, women's history, family history, memory... She particularly explores the issue of house work and concentrates on the employment sector of domestic workers in the 19th and 20th century (especially in the Gorizia region).





Tatiana Bajuk Senčar

The cultural construction of work among multilocal actors

This presentation will focus on discussing the mechanisms by which multilocal actors acquire and variably interpret work skills and practices as a potential arena for the negotiation, practice and construction of identity and multilocality. The discussion will be framed by an overview of existing research in Slovenia (and, to a lesser degree, abroad) concerning the acquisition of work skills and the practice of work among migrants and multilocal actors, discussing the analytic frames that have thus far been employed to approach this issue. In this context, work is presumed to be linked to the fashioning and everyday exercise of culturally constructed professional or vocational identities across the border. Tracing the negotiation and exercise of work identities and work ethics can be understood as multilocal processes undertaken by cultural actors who travel and work on both sides of the border.

Tatiana Bajuk Senčar (PhD in cultural anthropology) is a research fellow employed at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. She has led four research projects and has collaborated on numerous others both in Slovenia and abroad. Her research interests are wide-ranging, including studies of socialism and post-socialism, anthropology of development, cultural studies of scientific knowledge, anthropology of elites and technocrats, anthropology of globalization and European integration, anthropology of tourism, and, most recently, anthropology of heritage practices and protected areas.





Abstracts

Miha Kozorog

Production of locality Day workers on the border

This ethnographic paper will present the first results of a recent and still on-going research about self-organized working groups/networks from the westernmost part of Slovenia, which have been operating on the fields for the production of vine scions in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in Italy. The concept of “supply chain capitalism” (A. L. Tsing) will be used to explain how the working groups/networks have been operating and how with time their activities have decreased. The paper will also focus on the “production of locality” (A. Appadurai) aspects of working experience in the neighbouring country; namely, in the workers’ hometown this working experience represented a new form of building upon locality.

Miha Kozorog (PhD in Ethnology) is a researcher at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Between 2010 and 2012 he was holder of a post-doctoral research project *Festivals in cultural anthropological perspective: The role of new festivals in the production of locality*. His fields of research include local identity, anthropology of place and space, geographical marginality, tourism and popular culture.





Saša Poljak Istenič

»Technology of entering« *Language proficiency and the social status of a worker in the host family*

For immigrant workers, foreign language proficiency is needed to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the immigrant society; it is also estimated that language fluency increases employment probabilities. Language skills are therefore considered significant human capital and one of the main technologies of entering into new society. The research will focus on the workers' memories and current experience with learning the new language or improving their language skills while working for a family, an organization or a company, and especially on their perceptions of the employers' attitude towards them during this process. The main objective is to analyse the interdependence of the social status and language proficiency as perceived by the immigrant workers.

Saša Poljak Istenič (PhD in Ethnology) works as a researcher at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology SRC SASA. Her research mainly focuses on rituals, heritage, tourism, celebrations, social life, rural and sustainable development, but her interests also include marginal groups' social status and identity. She performed some fieldwork research among the Slovenian minority in Austria and Serbia on the interdependence of language, identity and social status. She currently takes part in research projects on celebrations in Slovenia and on Triglav national park, and in two international projects exploring the digitalization of cultural heritage. She is preparing a book on tradition and sustainable development in rural areas around Ljubljana.





Abstracts

Justin Winkler

Transformations of itinerancy *Rural multilocalities in change*

Historians identify the 1930s as a turning point for rural society. In south-eastern Styria itinerant professions came to a halt due to considerable structural changes in agriculture and the related economies. The disappearance of these micro-movements (of a scale which still has to be established) was accompanied by major meso-scale movements, the 20th century's rural exodus to the cities. This study wants to document people's mobility and multilocal strategies not as a novel cultural fact, but as a continuation on different scales of former itinerancy under the changing capitalist division of labour and its gendering. The assumption is that it was initiated by the pervasive monetary economy and the accompanying acceleration. Starting with the end of World War I, the changes shall be traced with the focus on livelihood, division of labour, the roles of the sexes and the handling of traditional agricultural property.

Justin Winkler is Professor of Human geography at Basel University. He has recently been teaching in Graz, Vienna and Joensuu. His special fields are history and aesthetics of landscape, geographical epistemologies and mobile culture.







