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MeSoS Vienna

Department of Methods in the Social Sciences



Institut für
KULTUR- UND SOZIALANTHROPOLOGIE

Department of
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY



Department of Science and Technology Studies
Institut für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung

The section “Ethnography” of the Department of Methods in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology Studies and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology (all at the University of Vienna) invites applications for the workshop:

Practices of Materiality

1st Vienna Ethnography Lab, 16 -18 July 2014, Vienna

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in questions of materiality in the social sciences. Far from being inconsequential, material objects and structures have proven to be decisive for the ways in which humans engage with their worlds and how these worlds “materialise” locally and translocally. Revitalising some long-standing debates including those about the social life of things, this “material turn” also poses new theoretical and methodological challenges to researchers from various disciplinary backgrounds.

The laboratory aims at providing a forum for intensive discussions of the ongoing or recently completed research of young scholars in these areas with an emphasis on the development of new ideas concerning various empirical approaches linked to praxeology. Thus, the discussion will focus on the situated practices that shape the dialectic relations of humans and things. Examples of such practices include medical practices, the production of documents and files, as well as the uses of technological devices and infrastructure, which all may engender – amongst others – new forms of subjectification or modify old ones. We invite applications that investigate such culturally embedded practices of materiality shaping and transforming the forms of entanglement between humans and things.

The laboratory offers a selected group of advanced PhD students and young post-doctoral scholars (12 participants) the opportunity to discuss their work with three distinguished scholars and present their findings and ideas at an interdisciplinary forum.

Senior Scholars 2014

John Law, Prof. of Sociology, Open University

Richard Rottenburg, Prof. of Anthropology, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg

(invited: Anita Hardon, Prof. of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam, tbc)



Organisers

Tatjana Thelen (Department of Methods in the Social Sciences)
Ulrike Felt (Department of Science and Technology Studies)
Bernhard Hadolt (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Application

We invite prospective participants to send us their application by 8 February 2014. Applications should include a letter stating the reasons for applying, a short CV, an abstract (250 words maximum) and an outline of research results (up to 5 pages) to be presented at the laboratory.

Please send your application to: office.methodenzentrum@univie.ac.at

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by mid-March 2014.

Format and Organization

The laboratory is based around the discussion of pre-circulated papers. Participants should hand in their full papers (up to 8000 words excluding the bibliography) by 16 June 2014 to be distributed among all participants. Participants are expected to read all papers in advance and introduce at least one of them during the workshop. The participants' presentations (10 minutes) will be followed by senior scholars' comments and intensive discussion. Each day will be opened by a morning session with senior scholars giving input.

Coffee breaks and lunches are provided. There are no fees; however please note that we cannot cover travel expenses or accommodation.

Venue

Conference Room of the Department of Methods in the Social Sciences
Rathausstrasse 19/9
1010 Vienna
Austria

