

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP - OPEN CALL FOR STUDENTS

Nürnberg (DE) - Frankfurt/Main (DE) - Vienna (AT) - Athens (GR) - Mytilini (GR)



FIELDRECORDING ON LESBOS AFFECTIVE METHODS BETWEEN ART AND ANTHROPOLOGY

organized by

Dr. Isabel Bredenbröker, anthropologist bredenbr@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Angela Stiegler, visual artist a.stiegler@adbk-nuernberg.de

Who can apply? Students from all participating institutions / departments:

ASFA Athens School of Fine Arts Athens (GR)

AdBK Akademie der Bildenden Künste Nürnberg (DE)

University of the Aegean (Department of Social Anthropology and History) Mytilini (GR)

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology) (DE)

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien (AT)

What to send? A letter of motivation (max. 250 words), a CV and a sample of your work (artistic or academic)
via e-mail to bredenbr@em.uni-frankfurt.de & a.stiegler@adbk-nuernberg.de (file size 2 MB)

DEADLINE Wednesday 1 June 2022 23:59:00 CET

Participants: 4 places for students from each institution

We are looking for advanced BA / diploma students, MA / Staatsexamen and PhD students

Location: on Lesbos and at the Department of Social Anthropology and History, University of the Aegean, Mytilini (GR)

Online: 28 September / 5 October / 7 October 2022

preparation and reflection via 3 Zoom sessions before the workshop on site

7 day intensive workshop: 8-16 October 2022 on Lesbos (incl. travel days)

Methods: artistic research, ethnography, field recording, collaborative research, interdisciplinary format between arts and anthropology

Topic: We will read texts addressing theories of love, queerness and affect. How can these inform research and artistic work in places that require an empathic engagement? We can test our insights in working with fieldrecording on site.

Aim and program of the workshop:

This workshop in Mytilini (on Lesbos, Greece) aims at bringing students from five institutions between Austria, Germany and Greece together and combine expertise from social and cultural anthropology with fine arts. Building on an existing long-term collaboration between Isabel Bredenbröker and Angela Stiegler which already resulted in several projects and workshops that partially also took place between Greece and Germany, we offer students an intimate forum for learning from one another and experimenting with methods from anthropology and fine arts, hence extending our disciplinary tools through working and collaborating.

In the workshop, we will introduce students to methods from both disciplines and share our experience from working in collaboration and combining methods and formats from arts and anthropology. Building on students' interests and expertise which they are developing throughout their course of study, these will be integrated into the workshop. We will provide a selection of texts to be read both before and throughout the workshop around the theme of queerness, love and its aberrations, make time for collaborative and individual research on Lesbos, for individual and collaborative production of work (such as writing, audio / film, other artistic formats) and offer a system of communication within the group via audio messages and field recordings. Field recording will be the main tool of investigation, which students can practice and use during several days of research in the island, which they will undertake in small mixed groups of participants from all collaborating institutions.

Topic:

The workshop takes place on Lesbos in Greece, a place that is on the one hand known for its association with Sappho's poetry in praise of love between women, and on the other hand as a site of harsh realities that refugees and migrants from Africa and the Middle East face in large-scale camps which have been set up here. With awareness of both of these diametrically opposed associations of place, we invite participants to approach thinking about this location by means of theories and understandings of love, compassion and queerness. How can we embark on ethnographic, artistic or hybrid work in response to this site and to our exchange within the group by considering ideas of queer love (a love that lives outside of what has been normatively defined), love for what is similar to oneself (as in homophilia or gay love), and a state of being in which conflict and lack of love or compassion seem to have the upper hand (as in bare life)? We will read texts by, among others, Ann Cvetkovich, Paul B. Preciado, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Saidya Hartman, Sara Ahmed, Sappho, bell hooks, Elizabeth Povinelli and look at artistic practices by artists like Hannah Black, Rebecca Horn, Yvonne Rainer and Georgia Sagri.

Love as a basis for interpersonal collaboration and interaction, as a basic emotion and state of being for humans as social beings, has played a, Georgia Sagri, twofold role in the collective practice of K (<http://khybrid.com/k/>), a collective that Isabel and Angela have been formative parts of for a long time now. While collectivity is a place of production, support but also conflict, the pandemic situation we still find ourselves in has brought out emotional states on a shared public level to an extreme. Those include fear and egocentric thinking, as well as a need and call for love, compassion and considering the safety of others. Hence, thinking with Ann Cvetkovich, love is as much a public feeling as depression. And just like depression as a feeling which is often framed as an illness, love, when its public sharedness becomes overly personal and needy, can quickly also turn into a sick state, a kind of lovesickness for social healing. The workshop will think along these lines and provide time for reflection on artistic and ethnographic research methods as well as for fieldwork on Lesbos.

CVs organizers

Isabel Bredenbröcker (Berlin/Frankfurt, Germany) is an anthropologist, translator, curator and filmmaker working between academia and art. Isabel holds a PhD in anthropology from Goethe University Frankfurt. Their thesis explores the materiality of death in a Ghanaian Ewe community and looks at how a political economy of death is created in engaging with the material world. Isabel's anthropological work focusses on material and visual culture studies, specifically the anthropology of death, anthropology of art, queer theory, critical reflections on the role of the ethnographer, postcolonial realities in West Africa, cleaning practices, negotiations of ownership in public space, ethnographic film and fieldrecording. As part of the a-disciplinary artist platform 'K', they co-curated and organised 'This house is not a home', a collective and experiential exhibition format at Lothringer 13 Halle in Munich (summer 2020).

Angela Stiegler (Berlin/Munich, Germany) is a visual artist working in various media including video and performance, as well as in collaborative contexts with shared authorship. Angela currently holds a teaching position as assistant professor (künstlerische Mitarbeit) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg. In her work she uses the format of exercises to explore body politics. "Motion Sickness Exercise" (2021-2022) examines the states of sickness, wellness and madness in virtual reality scenarios. This interdisciplinary artistic-scientific research project takes place within the structure of Leonardo Nuremberg (supported by Innovative Hochschule and Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung) and will be displayed in the realm of Future Bodies from a recent past at Museum Brandhorst Munich in summer 2022. She is a co-founder of the self-organised initiative 'K' Hybrid since 2013 and part of DIVA opera collective since 2020.