

Visualizing Deep Identity

Interdisciplinary Workshop

May 15 – 16, 2009

at the Lateinamerika-Institut

Freie Universität Berlin, Room 214

Rüdesheimer Str. 54-56

D-14197 Berlin, Germany

Contact: Ísis Fernandes Pinto, isisfp@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Kummels, kummels@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Racial as well as ethnic ideas and categories have been central to the construction of local, regional and national identities in Mexico, Cuba, Peru and Brazil – and remain so. At the same time actors have in particular resorted to visual media such as textiles, costumes, paintings, sculptures and photographic portraits to construct identity in different ways. The workshop "Visualizing Deep Identity" will focus on their production, circulation, consumption and possession of such images in the intersection with race and ethnicity. It relies on the concept of "visual economy" suggesting that the organization of the visual field has as much to do with shared meanings and communities as with social relationships, inequality and power (Poole 1997).

At the outset of the late 19th century supralocal identities and cultural nationalism were increasingly conceived in terms of a "deep" indigenous identity – to borrow Guillermo Bonfil's term "México Profundo" which he coined for his vision of Mexico as a country grounded in Mesoamerican culture. Mestizo indigenista ideologies that evoked a glorified precolonial indigenous past for the purpose of elite bonding and nation-building have been frequently studied by scholars of anthropology. The latter have paid less attention to similar concepts and uses developed by persons classified as *indios*, even though indigenous religious specialists, translators, craftspeople and artists living in the 16th century could be considered as constituting the first indigenistas.

The workshop "Visualizing Deep Identity" seeks to understand the intersection of visuality and race/ethnicity in the Americas by taking the visual strategies of these differentially positioned social actors likewise into consideration. The contributions will, on one hand, scrutinize diverse local concepts, and in particular the negotiation and the contention of photographic indigenismo in Mexico, Cuba, Peru and Brazil. They will, on the other hand, take the continental and trans-Atlantic channels through which indigenista images have flowed into account to disclose the multiple and entangled paths of indigenista aesthetics. A historical perspective of *longue durée* will include racial and ethnic images conveyed by textiles, costumes, sculptures and paintings as well as corresponding indigenista approaches. Finally, the workshop will address the recent indigenous media movements which seek to reassess former indigenista images and to control regimes of representation according to their own cultural and political concerns.

Friday, May 15

OPENING: 15 May - 9.30

Barbara Fritz (Vice-Director of the Lateinamerika-Institut): Welcome address

KEYNOTE OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP: 15 May - 10.00-11.00

Deborah Poole: Seeing Double: Costume, Play and Identity in the Photographic Archive

Coffee break: 11.00-11.30

PANEL 1: 15 May - 11.30-13.00 Indigenista Imagery at the Outset of Nationalism

Discussant: Karoline Noack

Anne Ebert: An Enquiry on the Representations of *Mestizaje* in the *Casta*-paintings (18th century)

Anna Punda: Coatlicue and the Indigenous Population in the New Spanish Imaginary of the 18th Century

Lunch break: 13.00-14.30

PANEL 2: 15 May – 14.30-16.00 Family Photography and the Faces of the Nation

Discussant: Jessica Gevers

Karoline Noack: The Image of Marriage in the Photography of Baldomero Alejos (Ayacucho, Peru)

Ingrid Kummels: Chilling Out and Taking Pictures: Leisure Photography and Negotiating Cuban Indigenismo in the 1930s

Coffee break: 16.00-16.30

PANEL 3: 15 May – 16.30-18.30 Anthropological Photography and Current Indigenous Media Movements

Discussant: Gabriela Zamorano

Marisol Palma: Martin Gusinde's Womens' Portraits and the Aesthetics of Primitivism and Hybridity

Anne Huffschnid: Camaristas: Chiapas' Indigenous Photographers

Alexander Brust: Connecting People to the Past and Present: The Use of Photography in Community Museums in Oaxaca, Mexico

Coffee break: 18.30-19:00

ROUNDTABLE: 15 May – 19.00-19.45

Speaker: Ingrid Kummels

Conference Dinner: 20.00 at the restaurant and beer-garden "Luise", Königin-Luise-Straße 40-42 (U-Bahn 3, Dahlem Dorf), 14195 Berlin, phone: 841 8880.

Saturday, May 16

Sérgio Costa (Director of the Lateinamerika-Institut): Welcome address

OPENING LECTURE in regard to Transatlantic Indigenista Aesthetics: 6 May – 10.00-11.00

Cristina Kahlo: Frida Kahlo, un mito de apropiación popular

Coffee break: 11.00-11.30

PANEL 4: 16 May - 11.30-13.00 Transatlantic Indigenista Aesthetics

Discussant: Rike Bolte

Elisabeth Bronfen: Carmen Miranda and „La Habanera“: The Construction of Latinness in the US- and German Cinema

Marie Gaida: Genuine or Fake? German Postwar Nationalism and the (Fake) Maya Stucco
Head of Berlin's Museum of Ethnology

Lunch break: 13.00-14.30

PANEL 5: 16 May – 14.30-16.00 Textile Media and Deep Identity

Discussant: Andrea Blumtritt

Sabina Aguilera: The Making of Textiles and its Metaphors among the Tarahumara (Mexico, 21st century)

Karoline Noack: Textiles as Multivalent Actors in the Colonial Society (Peru, 16th and 17th centuries)

Coffee break: 16.00-16.30

PANEL 6: 16 May – 16.30-18.00 Anthropological Film and the Brazilian Nation

Discussant: Alexander Brust

Ísis Fernandes Pinto: The film “Rituaes e festas Bororo” (1917): A Narrative about "Savages" and "Primitives"

Sonja Schenkel: Saudades do Brasil: A Cultural History of Homesickness

Coffee break: 18.00-18:30

ROUNDTABLE: 15 May – 18.30-19.15

Ingrid Kummels: Concluding remarks and plans for further cooperation and a publication.

Closing Session: 19.30 at the restaurant and beer-garden “Luise”, Königin-Luise-Straße 40-42 (U-Bahn 3, Dahlem Dorf), 14195 Berlin, phone: 841 8880.