The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

WITNESSING MEMORY AND MEDIA - 50967

Last update 13-02-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Communication and Journalism

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Amit Pinchevski

Coordinator Email: amitpi@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon 16-17

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Amit Pinchevski

Course/Module description:
   What does it mean to be a witness? What are the ethical stakes in witnessing? Do media turn us into witnesses, and if so what might this mean? What are the social, political and cultural consequences of witnessing in our time? These are some of the questions to be taken up in this seminar.
Witnessing is a term laden with historical legacies in religion, law and science—but also with recent relevance in philosophy, history and literature. The last century has seen the rise of the witness in the wake of unprecedented devastation, particularly that of the Holocaust, but also the development of technological media that redefine the scope and pertinence of what it means to be a witness. The seminar will locate the contemporary significance of witnessing between these two poles, bringing it to bear on key questions in communication and media studies.

Course/Module aims:
   The first part of the seminar will be devoted to foundational texts, followed by a series of cases and issues at the conjunction of media and witnessing. Among them: Levinas's ethics as horizon of witnessing; testimony and the failure of language; the trauma testimony discourse; media and trauma: the case of the Eichmann trial; testimony and new archival formations; technologies of memory; witnessing through the media: the media witnessing discourse; distant suffering and moral action. Readings will include texts in communication and media studies, philosophy, literary critique, sociology, psychoanalysis, and history.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
   Discuss issues of witnessing (including in juxtaposition to issues of media and/or memory) according to contemporary theories.

Attendance requirements(%):
   80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: class discussions

Course/Module Content:
   Introduction
Jorge Luis Borges, "The Witness" in Labyrinths (New York: Penguin, 1981), p. 279.

Witnessing after Auschwitz
Shoshana Felman and Dori Laub, Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis and History (New York: Routledge, 1992), Ch. 2, 3.

Dominick LaCapra, "Interview for Yad Vashem" in Writing History, Writing Trauma (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2000), pp. 141-180.

Cathy Caruth, Unclaimed Experiences (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press), Introduction, Ch. 3.

Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle

Primo Levi, Is this a Man?

Between testimony and evidence

סרט: Mr. Death (Errol Morris, 1999)

Jean-Francios Lyotard, The Differend

Adi Ophir, "Shifting the Ground of the Moral Domain in Lyotard's Le Differend," Constellations 4:2 (1997):189-204.

Giorgio Agamben, Remnants of Auschwitz

Primo Levi, The Drowned and the Saved

Eichmann in Jerusalem

Hanna Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem ch. 1

Shoshana Felman, "Theaters of Justice: Arendt in Jerusalem, the Eichmann Trial, and the Redefinition of Legal Meaning in the Wake of the Holocaust," Theoretical Inquiries in Law Vol. 1 No. 2 (2002): 1-43.

העשרה:
Hannah Jablonka, The State of Israel vs. Adolf Eichmann

Amit Pinchevski, Tamar Liebes and Ora Herman, "Eichmann on the Air: Radio and the Making of an Historic Trial," The Historical Journal of Film Radio and Television Vol. 27 No. 1 (2007): 1-25.

Eichmann in Jerusalem 2

Omer Bartov, Mirrors of Destruction

Shoshana Felman, "A Ghost in the House of Justice: Death and the Language of Law" in The Judicial Unconscious: Trials and Traumas in the Twentieth Century (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002), pp. 131-166.

Idith Zeral, "From the People's Hall to the Wailing Wall," Representations

Annette Wieviorka, The Era of the Witness (Cornell U Press, 2006), pp. 56-95.

Eichmann in Jerusalem 3

Amit Pinchevski and Roy Brand, "Holocaust Perversions: The Stalags Pulp Fiction and the Eichmann Trial" Critical Studies in Media Communication Vol. 24 No. 5 (2007): 387-407.

Amit Pinchevski and Tamar Liebes, "Severed Voices: Radio and the Mediation of Trauma in the Eichmann Trial," Public Culture Vol. 22 No. 2 (2010): 265-291.

Saul Friedlander, Kitsch and Death

Jeffrey Alexander, Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity (Berkeley: California UP, 2004), pp. 1-30.

Archive and memory

Jacques Derrida, Archive Fever
Wolfgang Ernst, "The Archive as Metaphor," Open no.7: 46-53.

Arjun Appadurai, "Archive and Aspiration," in Information is Alive: Art and Theory on Archiving and Retrieving Data, eds. J. Brouwer and A. Mulder (V2/NAi Publishers, 2003), pp. 14–25.

Pierre Nora, Lieux De Memoire

Jan Assmann, Religion and Cultural Memory (Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 2006), pp. 1-30.

Bernard Stiegler, "Memory" in Critical Terms for Media Studies, eds. W. J. T. Mitchell and B. N. Hansen (Chicago: Chicago UP, 2010), pp. 64-87.
Also available as "Anamnesis and Hypomnesis" from

http://www.arsindustrialis.org/anamnesis-and-hypomnesis

Archive and Memory 2

Amit Pinchevski, "The Audiovisual Unconscious: Media and Trauma in the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies," Critical Inquiry vol. 39 no. 1 (2012): 142-166.

Geoffrey Hartman, "Tele-Suffering and Testimony in the Dot Com Era" in Visual Culture and the Holocaust, ed. Barbie Zelizer (Rutgers U Press, 2001), pp. 111-126.

העשרה:
Aleida Assmann, "History, Memory and the Genre of Testimony," Poetics Today vol. 27 no.2 (2006): 261-273.
Marian Hirsch, "The Generation of Postmemory," Poetics Today vol. 29 no. 1 (2008): 103-128.

9. Media Witnessing I

John Ellis. Seeing Things: Television in the Age of Uncertainty. (London: Tauris, 2000), Ch. 1, 2, 3.

John Durham Peters, "Witnessing," Media Culture & Society vol. 23 no. 6 (2001): 707-723. Also in Media Witnessing: Testimony in the Age of Mass Communication, eds. Paul Frosh and Amit Pinchevski (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) pp. 23-48.

העשרה:
Avishai Margalit, The Ethics of Memory (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002), pp. 147-182

John Ellis, "Mundane Witness," in Media Witnessing, pp. 73-88.
Paul Frosh, "Telling Presences: Witnessing, Mass Media and the Imagined Life of Strangers," in Media Witnessing, pp. 49-72.

10. Media Witnessing II (2.6)

Paul Frosh and Amit Pinchevski, "Crisis Readiness and Media Witnessing," Communication Review vol. 12 no. 3 (2009): 295-304.

Tamar Ashuri and Amit Pinchevski, "Witnessing as a Field," in Media Witnessing, pp. 133-157.

Anna Reading, "Globital Witnessing: Mobile Memories of Atrocity and Terror from London and Iran," in Constructions of Conflict: Transmitting Memories of the Past in European Historiography, Literature and Culture, ed. K.N Jones and K. Hall (New

York: Peters Lang, 2011), pp. 73-90.

העשרה:
Karin Becker, "Gestures of Seeing: Amateur Photography in the News," Journalism (forthcoming 2014)

Barbie Zelizer, "Finding Aids to the Past: Bearing Personal Witnessing to Public Traumatic Events," Media, Culture and Society vol. 24 (2002): 697-714.

Regarding the Pain of Others

Judith Butler, Precarious Lives

Lilie Chouliaraki, "The Mediation of Suffering and the Vision of a Cosmopolitan Public," Television and New Media vol. 9 no. 5 (2008): 371-391.

העשרה:

Susan Sontag, Regarding the Pain of Others (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003), Ch. 5-8.

Luc Boltanski, Distant Suffering: Morality, Media and Politics (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999), pp. 114-130; 149-152.

Roger Silverstone, Media and Morality (London: Polity, 2006), pp. 106-135.

Required Reading:
 above in Course Content

 Additional Reading Material:
  above in Course Content

  Course/Module evaluation:
  End of year written/oral examination 0 %
  Presentation 0 %
  Participation in Tutorials 10 %
  Project work 70 %
  Assignments 0 %
  Reports 20 %
  Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
none