

Visual and material displays of migration histor(ies) in Germany. Case study: Greek 'Gastarbeiter*Innen' in West Germany. Towards a bottom-up archive of gendered and silenced migration experience(s)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords: Migration, Labour migration histories, Postcolonial Museology, Memory work and gender, Collaborative Ethnography, diaspora memory, (post-)migration identity.

In my contribution, I will highlight the transnational, gendered and multidirectional memories regarding Greek labour migrants' embodied experience(s) during the period of the recruitment agreement in Western Germany accentuating silenced and marginalized perspectives of the “southern periphery” (Greek female Guest-workers in West Germany).

Particularly, I will illustrate 3 case studies throughout my fieldwork in the city of Hamburg, and the city of Munich, focusing on silenced and marginalized gendered perspectives of Greek migrant labourers in Germany, which formed a crucial part of my PhD Dissertation (EKW, Hamburg University). A central research objective of my *multi-sited focused* ethnography was to understand and describe the different *voices* and agencies from unofficial and official sources, i.e. documents, texts, personal photos, artefacts, audio and archival material from the archive of the *Bayerisches Rundfunk (as of now BR)* in Munich, as well as various networks of Greek Diaspora based there.

Furthermore, I intend to explore this ongoing critical dialogue between oral histories/orality, social memory, the importance of “relational ethics” in research, memory work (feminist perspectives), gender aspects, subjectivity, inter-generational transfer of traumatic memories (see *Post-memory*, Hirsch 1997), and materiality, objects as *mnemonic devices* (Jones 2012) and archives, be it official or unofficial, in their multilayered formats, and how these different *voices* of the actors enter into a resonant space within museographic/memory practice and its representations.

Finally, based on my analysis of a polyphonic and multi-prismatic archive, or a *Heterarchive*¹, it will be possible to describe spherically and comprehend “the multiple materialities of migrant worlds” (Basu, Coleman 2008), as well as enhance the notion of a dialogue-driven and “relational” museum (Harrison, 2013), and a 'bottom-up' memory archive of migrants' experiences in a *post-migrant* society.

CV

Chris Zisis holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the Institute of Anthropological studies in culture and history, Hamburg University/EKW (March 2024, Grade : 'magna cum laude'). Moreover he holds a Master's Degree in the field of Heritage/Museum Studies (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder) and a B.A. degree in Philosophy and History of Science (National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece).

Since Spring Semester 2017 he has been working consistently as a Lecturer at the department of Social Work & Public Health, University of Applied Sciences Kiel. Along with his standard research foci, which intersect fields such as Museum/Heritage Studies, Migration research, *engaged anthropology*, critical and anti-racist education, he is equally interested in examining artistic practices and interventions, new social movements/*nonmovements*, eventually how critical knowledge is (co-) produced by “bottom-up”, unofficial archives and actors, not only in museum/memory sites, but public space.

¹ Neologism derived from the fusion of the Greek words [*έτερος*= other, *Αρχείον*= Archive]. Based on the critical fusion of concepts such as *Heterotopias* (Foucault 1968) ; *Chronotopos* (Bachtin 1973) ; *Mnemotopos* (Ruibal 2008) ; *Multidirectional memory* (Rothberg 2009) with the notion of archives.