



Oral history: Methods, challenges and current debates

Workshop with Chrischené Julius (District Six Museum, Cape Town),
Basel - 12.-13.04.2018

Oral history as a discipline emerged from the desire to tell the story of the “ordinary” person. It emerged particularly as a tool to narrate those voices left out of the official historical canon. It was seen as a tool to empower, to foreground personal and collective experiences and to counter the hegemonic ideas of the state. It was therefore regarded as suitable for researching the experiences of marginalised groups. Oral history developed important texts within the historical canon. However, the debates that emerged within the production of these texts dealt largely with how it perpetuated a “domination versus resistance” model of history, and the ways in which it silenced how the interviews and texts were in themselves authored with inherent bias. A call emerged for a self-reflexivity in the practice of collecting stories and memory studies emerged as a key framework for enabling this.

The workshop provides a general introduction to oral history and offers participants an opportunity to present their research projects. Participants who wish to present should send an abstract (melanie.boehi@unibas.ch, Deadline: 15.03.2018).

Where: Department of History, Hirschgässlein 21, 4051 Basel, Room 3

When: Thursday, 12.04.2018, 2.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Friday, 13.04.2018, 9.30 am - 1.00 pm, incl. Lunch

Registration: bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration (Deadline: 29.03.2018)