



**ARCHIVES, COLLECTIONS AND PRACTICES OF KNOWLEDGE-MAKING:
HISTORIES OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Department of Anthropology (FFLCH-USP)/Department of Anthropology (IFCH-
Unicamp)**

July 1-3 – BBM - Mindlin's Libray (Brasiliiana) – USP- University City

July 4-5 - SESC Research and Formation Center (Dr. Plínio Barreto Street, 285, 4th floor)

Lead Organizers

Prof. Christiano Tambascia (UNICAMP)

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Organizing Committee

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Sponsors: BBM -Biblioteca Brasileira José e Guita Mindlin – PRCEU-USP/ Pró-Reitoria de Cultura e Extensão Universitária; Centro de Pesquisa e Formação, SESC-SP

I. Theme, objectives and challenges

This colloquium aims to launch a reflection on anthropological archives and collections in order to retrieve histories of anthropology, shedding new light on the discipline, its practices and its procedures. It is not a matter of a technical discussion about archives, but rather of instigating a theoretical and methodological reflection on the archives - their uses and the issues unfolded by them - favouring, in this sense, a wide debate about forms, technologies, and politics of knowledge.

Recent studies have enabled a profound critique of some basic assumptions of scientific practices. For anthropology, specifically, this meant a renewed perspective on the history of the discipline and new ways of conceiving it. Rather than to settle an old score with the ethnographic realism and its scientific claims – which tended to follow the presumed neutrality of the ethnographic writing – these studies, by thinking new ways of conceiving and producing histories of the anthropological practices, have given impetus to original research outcomes and vigorous theoretical renewals. Such reflexivity has been demonstrating that the variety of anthropological collections and archives are undoubtedly related to the very historiographic narratives that constitute them. Thus, we argue that archives and the ways of accessing them are both outcomes and instigators of histories of anthropology. Therefore, the analysis of these archives, mostly from a critical perspective on the nature of memories produced about events, characters and ideas, enables a wider range of spaces for invention, insofar as the process of narrating a history is part of the very object of investigation.

Thus, being attentive to the strategies of production of anthropology's memories and histories, as well as its documents, its guardian institutions, and its interpreters – at museums, archives or research institutes – invites us to sketch an ethnography of the information technologies that sustain these histories, as well the underlying logics that organize these narratives.

If archives and collections have provided privileged sources and materials for research activities in a wide range of areas, anthropologists have carried out systematic reflections about them, with consequences for our practices and the ways we produce knowledge, information,

histories, memories, archive researches, ethnographies etc. The ongoing debates on these subjects have been defining new research agendas and retracing paradigms. However, the opportunities for intellectual exchanges and dialogues among investigators engaged with such issues are still rare. Such exchanges usually take place within very specific academic environments (universities, museums and research laboratories), in which scholars and investigators not always are able to expand dialogues towards other institutional and national contexts, as well as towards other fields and subfields of knowledge.

The colloquium's biggest challenge is precisely to bring together scholars and investigators of different backgrounds and nationalities (without forgetting the dialogues with neighbouring disciplines, especially with history and archaeology) in order to make a review of the state of the art of recent works in the area. Moreover, it also provides means to enrich the theoretical and methodological contributions that have been provided by scholars and by the archives in which they work, so as to know its actual dimensions and impacts. Through this effort, we hope to establish new networks and partnerships which might foster original research agendas and analytical pathways.

It is worth underscoring not only the scientific importance of this proposal, but also its political relevance, given the sustained threats faced by the Brazilian archives and collections in recent times, due to the lack of support and incentives of many sorts. The colloquium also aims to contribute, first and foremost, to the valorisation of Brazilian scientific and cultural heritage. In better words, it is our hope that the colloquium might be able to stimulate a wide debate about the dilemmas that jeopardize the survival of Brazilian heritage in order to provide theoretical insight and, consequently, to propose policies for their maintenance and protection.

II. Structure and Projected Audience

Due to all aforementioned concerns, the colloquium aims to gather a human sciences audience – professors, students and researchers –, as well as professionals engaged with archives from different domains, an audience which are normally drawn to the colloquium's sponsor institutions, the Brasiliana Library (BBM-USP) and the SESC-SP. The colloquium will take place

in two different venues: six (6) panels to be held at BBM-USP and other two (2) at the SESC Research and Formation Center, such as described below.

Monday, July 1st (Biblioteca Brasileira, USP)

- **13h30-14h**

Opening

- **14h-15h30**

1. Burning archives

Antonio Augusto Arantes (Unicamp)
Olívia Cunha (Museu Nacional/UFRJ)
org: Paulo Iumatti (IEB- USP)

Coffee-Break

- **16h-18h**

2. Anthropological collections: challenges and perspectives

Richard Price (College of William & Mary)
Sally Price (College of William & Mary)
Kevin Yelvington (Universidade da Flórida)
Rodrigo Ramassote (IPHAN - Brasília)
org: Luís Gustavo Freitas Rossi (UNICAMP)

Tuesday, July 2nd (Biblioteca Brasileira, USP)

- **13h30-15h30**

3. Archives tell tales

H. Glenn Penny (Universidade of Iowa)
Wayne Modest (Universidade Vrije Amsterdã)
Mariana Françaço (Universidade de Leiden)
Julia Goyatá (USP)
org: Christiano Tambascia (UNICAMP)

Coffee-Break

- **16h-18h**

4. Collections and histories of Anthropology

Christine Laurière (LAHIC- CNRS)
Nélia Dias (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Luís Felipe Sobral (USP)
Michael Kraus (Universidade de Göttingen)
org: Fernanda Arêas Peixoto (USP)

Wednesday, July, 3rd (Biblioteca Brasileira, USP)

- **13h30-15h30**

5. Anthropologists in the archives: practices and forms of knowledge

Christiano Tambascia e Luís Gustavo Freitas Rossi (UNICAMP)
Frederico Delgado Rosa (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Gino Satta (Universidade Aldo Moro, Bari)
Fernanda Arêas Peixoto (USP)
org: Luís Felipe Sobral (USP)

Coffee-Break

- **16h-18h**

6. Sound and visual archives

Aristóteles Barcelos Neto (University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK)
Xavier Gilles Vatin (UFRB)
Marco Antonio Gonçalves (UFRJ)
Paula Morgado Lopes (LISA – USP)
org: Nathanael Araújo da Silva (UNICAMP)

Thursday, July 4th (Centro de Pesquisa e Formação, SESC)

- **19h-21h30**

1. Management and circulation of archives

Elizabeth Martins Ribas (IEB- USP)
Neil Safier (John Carter Brown Library, Universidade de Brown)
Véronique Parmentier (*Archivistes sans frontières*)
Márcia Chuva (IPHAN)
org: Pedro Galdino (USP)

Friday, July 5th (Centro de Pesquisa e Formação, SESC)

- **19h-21h30**

2. Shared collections

Laura van Broekhoven (Museu Pitt Rivers)

Alexandre de Oliveira Gomes (UFPE)

Fabíola Andrea Silva (MAE- USP)

Luísa Valentini (USP)

org: Mariana França (Universidade de Leiden)