Special Investigations Team

بمباردمان هوالی توسط لیروهای بین المثلی در ولسونای علی آباد ملط به تاریخ 13 سئیله 1388 مطابق 4 سیتمیر 2009

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3rd CuWaDis-European-Group-Workshop to advance the study of war, discourse and culture

Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main

Casino, Campus Westend

21 - 23 July 2014

Preliminary Program

Monday, 21st July

Coffee

12:30 - 1:00 pm

Welcome and Introduction

Coffee

Panel I: Professional vision, evidence claims, and technology

The panel concentrates on seeing as an interactional accomplishment. 'Professional vision' (Goodwin) points to the methods with which members of a profession shape their phenomenological environment into profession-specific objects of knowledge. Along these lines, agreeing on something that 'everyone can see' is the outcome of practices such as coding schemes, highlighting and representation that are articulated, and can thus be studied. At least two sorts of material seem to be relevant here: (1) transcripts of pilot conversation before airstrikes that allow studying the constitution of the operational field, (2) video material that documents killings and its contested status as evidence in democratic procedures. These military video data often trouble the sensemaking of an "overseeing audience". Experts are needed to support the process of interpreting. The lines of arguments may shift between "what everyone can see"-claims and "what these people at this specific moment were seeing"-claims. We want to discuss methodological issues that are raised with the interpretation of these data.

Chair: Christine Leuenberger (Cornell) **Discussant:** Michael Lynch (Cornell)

1:00 - 2:45 pm

Professional vision, evidence claims, and technology (1): Presentations

Chris Elsey, Michael Mair, Paul V. Smith, Patrick G. Watson (UK): The violence you were(/n't) meant to see

Martina Kolanoski (Frankfurt): Seeing civilians? The cockpit video of the Kunduz-airstrike and its different status as evidence at the Attorney General and at a public court hearing

Christian Meyer & Ulrich v. Wedelstaedt (Bielefeld): Deciding to attack: evidence and accountability in predator drone team talk

Forum: ideas for identifying cultural patterns in comparative perspective

Coffee

3.00 - 4.30 pm

Professional vision, evidence claims and technology (2): Data Session

Chair: Jörg Bergmann

Data: Chris Elsey

Coffee

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Panel II: Moralizing, ethics, and legitimation

This panel focuses on issues associated with morality and ethical conduct as they are negotiated in discourses related to combat-related killings. As contemporary publics have developed more ambivalent attitudes towards war and its consequences, the valorization, glorification, and heroization of war-making practices have often become more complex, grounded not only in the ethos of blood sacrifice but in a variety of legitimation strategies founded upon claims of morality and necessity. While nations have always constructed their wars as "just wars", the discourses and arguments they employ have undergone epistemological, ontological, and ethical shifts that both reflect and construct changing circumstances and sociocultural environments. We will discuss these issues through specific events and their accompanying discourses.

Chair: Nurit Peled-Elhanan (Jerusalem)

Discussant: Thomas Scheffer (Goethe University)

Oren Livio (Haifa University): Shifting contextual borders as claims to morality: The Turkel Commission hearings and the Gaza flotilla raid

Inbal Levy Leibovits (Haifa University): On the collective memory of going to war in Israel: Exploring the discourse following the 1967 and 1982 wars

Isabel Ebert & Jelena Bellmer (Frankfurt): Accounting by the use of legal arguments

Forum: ideas for identifying cultural patterns in comparative perspective

Dinner at Restaurant Demera, Holzhausenstr. 77

Tuesday, 22nd July

Panel III: Mediality and accounting

This session wants to trace the connections between various 'theatres of war' as interconnected sites, such as the battlefield, the media, the courtroom etc. In particular, the session draws attention to the mediums that are used to establish these connections, such as files, photographs, videos, protocols, etc.

Chair: Thomas Scheffer (Frankfurt) **Discussant:** Michael Mair (Liverpool)

Mediality and accounting (1): Presentations

09:30 - 10:30 am

Michael Lynch (Cornell): Public Archives, Viral Videos, and Legal Accountability

Nurit Peled-Elhanan (Jerusalem): Accounts of massacres in Israeli school history books

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Christine Leuenberger (Cornell): Maps, discourses, and politics: Visual accounts of international law in maps of Israel and the Palestinian Territories

Shani Cohen (Haifa): Frontstage and backstage accounting: The IDF Spokesperson's Unit, the media, and the Gaza flotilla raid

Coffee

12:15 - 1.30 pm

Mediality and Accounting (2): Data Session

Chair: Christian Meyer

Data: Thomas Scheffer

Lunch

Tuesday, 22nd July

2:30 - 4:15 pm

Panel IV: Accounting and combat experience

The workshop brings together case studies from *countries that are more or less distant from war experience*. The session reflects on the relevance of personal involvement and shared life worlds. What implications does distance carry in terms of political atmospherics, including the way it helps organise fields of possibility, and the effort needed to contradict or criticise military logics?

In Germany, only a minority of the political community is involved in or exposed to experiences of combat. The vast majority experiences neither the military, nor combat or military conflict. They live in an everyday 'state of peace'. Positions on war are mostly taken up at some distance to combat. Applying this heuristic scale, Israel may be, to some extent, placed on the other side, a society close to combat experience, while the UK – with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and large military missions – may be located somewhere in-between. Does distance matter?

Chair: Jennifer Hyndman (Toronto)

Discussant: Jörg Bergmann (Bielefeld)

Neil Jenkings (Newcastle): Blue on Blue in military memory and memoir accounts

Asfahan Bahaloul (Haifa): Competing paradigms of truth and accounting: Examining the controversy

surrounding "Jenin, Jenin"

Felix Pausch (Frankfurt): Combat experiences in (auto)biographic accounts of soldiers

Forum: ideas for identifying cultural patterns in comparative perspective

Coffee

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Accounting and Combat Experience (2): Data Session

Chair: Paul Smith **Data:** Felix Pausch

Free-time

7:00 pm Film&Discussion: Z 32 (Orfeos Erben: Hamburger Allee 45)

Directed by Avi Mograbi, F/IL 2008, 81 min, Hebrew original with English subtitles.

An Israeli soldier recounts his war crimes. With an introduction by film critic Philipp Stadelmaier on the depiction of violence and war in Israeli cinema. Followed by a discussion.

8:30 pm Dinner at Orfeos Erben Restaurant

Wednesday, 23rd July (1)

Panel V: Data, statistics, and the counting in accounting

Do numbers have politics? Today, various organizations (e.g., ICRC) are in charge of registering, counting, and documenting combat-related killings. Here, modern communication technologies have created new ways of knowing and accounting. It seems that some sort of recording system documents almost every military action. The session collects case studies on the practices of counting, the ordering work of numbers, the interpretation and re-contextualization of data as knowledge and discourse practice, etc.

Chair: Martina Kolanoski (Frankfurt) **Discussant:** Endre Danyi (Frankfurt)

09:30 - 11:45 am

Data, statistics, and the counting in accounting (1)

Jennifer Hyndman (Toronto): Body counts in Iraq: How metric matters

Thomas Scheffer (Frankfurt): Operational and moral numbers

Elizabeth Minor (Every Casualty Program, London): Recording conflict casualties: the range of approaches and challenges

Forum: ideas for identifying cultural patterns in comparative perspective

Coffee

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Data statistics, and the counting in accounting (2): Data Session

Chair: Michael Lynch

Data: Elizabeth Minor

Lunch

Wednesday, 23rd July (2)

Panel VI: The politics of accounting

How are combat-related killings rendered problematic; how can they become a matter of political concern? How are they scandalized, and what kind of political claims are related to them? The session reflects on the social production of 'lessons learnt' and the possibilities and constraints to transfer the outcomes of accounting into a political agenda.

Chair: Ulrich v. Wedelstaedt (Bielefeld)

Discussant: Oren Livio (Haifa)

2:30 - 4:00 pm

Daniel Dor (Tel Aviv): Death in the Headlines: Victimhood, Responsibility and the Construction of National Imagination

David Adler (Oldenburg): Pleasure = Relief. Micro-contextualizing Angela Merkel's Comments on the Death of bin Laden

Samira Alayan (Jerusalem): How Palestinian Textbooks Represent The Collective Memories Under War and Conflict: The Case of Palestine

Forum: ideas for identifying cultural patterns in comparative perspective

Coffee

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Round-up Discussion: Quo vadis CuWaDis?

- (1) Reflections on case-founded comparability and incomparability
- (2) Challenges of and demands for cross-cultural concepts on war discourse
- (3) Methodological and analytical components of future research
- (4) Political Implications
- (5) Publications plus future applications