

Field School: Dig Where You Stand

May 24th – 29th, 2021

Interrupt digital archives and speculatively write yourself—and your immediate environment—into history



This remote workshop uses experimental research methods to critically engage our immediate environments—distant and different though they may be—as a living laboratory and the subject of online and offline practices of observation. Inspired in part by the international movement started in the 1970’s promoting active engagement with the history of a place, “Dig Where You Stand” is a site-based approach to interdisciplinary research in which participants investigate and reimagine the local.

How have images and archives shaped what we think we know about a place, and how do previously-seen images structure our experience when we encounter an urban or rural site with our physical senses? Which histories, what kinds of everyday experiences of place have been overlooked or left unrepresented? Participants will creatively interrupt the mediated images and archives that preserve and maintain the history of a place, and speculatively rewrite their observations back into this history.

This series of workshops and talks will take place in collaboration with students from the University of Cologne—as we explore and exchange methods of engagement with archives, experimental observations of place, virtual walks, and critical responses to digital representations of local sites with invited visiting artists, scholars and the public. The findings of the workshop will be disseminated in a multi-layered and experimental (on demand) publication: a kind of speculative virtual walk through pre-existing digital archives critically disrupted by participants’ personal observations of the everyday spaces they inhabit.

Field School: Dig Where You Stand is a collaboration between the [Observational Practices Lab](#), Parsons, and the [Laboratory for Art and Research](#), University of Cologne.

Schedule Summer 21

Summer, May 24th – 29th	AM	PM
Session 1 — Day 1: Dig Where You Stand	3h	3h
Session 2 — Day 2: Critical Investigations: The Physical Site	3h	3h
Session 3 — Day 3: Critical Investigations: The Virtual Place	3h	3h
Session 4 — Day 4: Online/ Offline Interventions	3h	3h
Session 5 — Day 5: Creative Publishing	3h	3h
Session 6 — Day 6: Compiling Publication	3h	3h

Fall 2021

A credit-bearing Independent Study option exists for those students who wish to pursue further exploration of theories and methodologies introduced during the summer intensive. Students may elect to earn up to 3 credits through Independent Study. All students pursuing this option are expected to participate in the following scheduled sessions.

The Independent Study will be an expansion of considerations initiated during the field school workshop in May. Students will pursue their investigations to creatively interrupt the mediated images and archives they identified within their physical environments. They will develop ideas to document and circulate their research beyond the collaborative publication generated during the May workshop.

Fall	AM	
Session 1, September 3: Launch Semester “Dig Where You Stand” Project Evaluating Workshop Archive; Preparing Semester Independent Project Trajectory	1.5h	
Session 2, October 1, Group Exchange and Feedback Session I Internal Exchange	3h	
Session 3, November 5, Group Exchange and Feedback Session II with Visiting Critics from related fields around University	3h	
Session 4, December 3, Final Project Due;	1.5h	

Documentation and Circulation		
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Contact Hours	12h	
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Participation Summer Only

No credit.

New School students with a related research focus are welcome to apply to participate in the summer experience. Space is limited. Successful applications will include: 1. Statement of Purpose: short paragraph connecting your research with the aims of Field School 2. Short Bio: What is your background, describe areas of interest and anything else you'd like us to know.

Dig Where You Stand

Monday, May 24

10am-10:15am
16.00-16.15

Welcome and introduction to Field School
— Ice breaker (with Pickaxe)

10.15am-12:00am
16.15-18.00

- I. Students respond to the simple prompt “Dig Where You Stand”. Participants leave zoom and return in one hour.
- II. In groups of 3-4, they present their “findings”. Groups record methodologies used in each group (on mural?). They list the places they are investigating, and general approaches to responding to the prompt.

12.00pm-12.30pm
18.00-18.30

Break

12.30pm-13.00pm
18.30-19.00

- I. Groups choose one method for “Dig Where You Stand” and co-write an instruction that can be used by others.
- II. Instructions are shared. Students choose three instructions as methods to observe/ investigate their local site.

13.00pm-14.30pm
19.00-20.30

Lecture: Doris Frohnapfel
Commons & Cologne

Asynchronous Assignment I
Students enact three selected instructions
Share findings on Mural Board

Critical Investigations: The Physical Site

Tuesday, May 25

10am-10.10am Debrief Monday & review Tuesday schedule
16.00-16.10

10.10am-11.30am Lecture & Workshop
16.10-17.30 [Center for Land Use Interpretation](#)

11.30am-12.00pm Break
17.30-18.00

12.00pm-1.30pm Peer Collaboration
18.00-19.30 Working with Physical Site, Instructions
Work in small international groups

Asynchronous Assignment II
Enacting instructions: physical environments

Critical Investigations: The Virtual Place/ Space Archive

Wednesday, May 27

10am-11.00am Debrief Tuesday & review Wednesday schedule
16.00-16.10 Presentation of 5+ archives different archives (ie golden record; digit;
local rural examples--critical archives; corbis; ap; what does it mean,
what context, etc.) How to locate a local archive

11.30am-1.00pm
17.30-19.00 Peter Spillmann (Berlin / Luzern)
<https://mapping.postkolonial.net/mapping>

19.00-19.30 Groups of 4-5 Check in with faculty

Asynchronous Assignment III
Individual project work

Online/ Offline Interventions

Thursday, May 25

10am-10.10am
16.00-16.10 Debrief Wednesday & review Thursday schedule

10.10am-11.30am
16.10-17.30 Peer Review & Collaboration
Discuss Work in small groups

11.30am-12.00pm
17.30-18.00 Break

12.00am-1.30pm
18.00-19.30 (Interrupting Archives as Methodology in Art & Design Research)
Stefanos Tsivopoulos & Node Berlin (Berlin / Milano)
<https://www.stefanostsivopoulos.com/archive-crisis>

1.30pm-2.00pm
19.30-20.00 Feedback and critiques
— all faculty are online and available

Asynchronous

Creative Publishing

Friday, May 28

10am-10.10am
16.00-16.10 Debrief Thursday & review Friday schedule

10.10am-11.30am
16.10-17.30

Lecture / Workshop: Creative Publishing
Eva Weinmayr
Groups of 4-5 Check in with faculty

18.00-19.30

Asynchronous
Assignment IV
Layering archival material and records of personal observations PDF

Digital Presentation Intervention

Saturday, May 29

10am-12.00pm
16.00-18.00

Publication Workshop

12:30pm-1:30pm
18.30-19.30

Performing the Local Archive
Public Event