

SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF AWARDING
THE ERASMUS PRIZE 2009 TO

ANTONIO CASSESE AND BENJAMIN FERENCZ



RECORDING MASS VIOLENCE



MEDIA AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY
OF SEVERE INJUSTICE

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

9.30 A.M. - 6.00 P.M.

FILM MUSEUM, VONDEL PARK 3, AMSTERDAM (MORNING)

KNAW, KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 29, AMSTERDAM
(AFTERNOON)
ENTRANCE FREE
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: WWW.HUIZINGAINSTITUUT.NL



THIS SEMINAR addresses the role of audiovisual information in documenting, reconstructing and coming to terms with cases of severe injustice. For our memory of injustice – as in crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide – audiovisual records form a dynamic source of information. First there is the documentation of the crimes themselves. This stage is followed by a reconstruction of events on the basis of that documentation – in the courtroom, the archive, written and audiovisual documents. Running in parallel to this process is a movement in space: the space where the crimes were committed; the gathering of evidence for the prosecution, and trial in court. Then there is the collecting of the documentation in the archive, with the purpose of allowing historical research and reflection. Finally, the documentation and reconstructions of the conflict or crime find their way into the public sphere and can be inscribed into collective memory.

CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS, first employed after the second World War in Nuremberg, have become a permanent feature of international justice. Such tribunals are staged events, offering a reconstruction of the conflict that aims to reach a solution that is acceptable to all parties involved. Underlining the symbolic role of these tribunals is their audiovisual documentation. From Nuremberg – the first trial that was fully recorded on audio and partly on film – to the trials of Eichmann, Milosevic and



Saddam Hussein, the media coverage ensured that the trying of the crimes could forge a place in collective memory. Seeing the perpetrators in their cages, disarmed and no longer in uniform, being questioned by international judges and lawyers, is one of the key facilitators of reconciliation. The importance of these trials and their audio-visibility is demonstrated by the fact that when they are lacking, as in the case of the Armenian genocide, reconciliation with the event is blocked.

THE SPEAKERS at this seminar will analyse the role of audiovisual heritage in the documentation of crimes against humanity, in their reconstruction, and finally in the reconciliation with such conflicts.

THE SEMINAR is organised by the Huizinga Institute, the Department of Media Studies of the University of Amsterdam, in collaboration with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation and Nederlands Filmmuseum. More information regarding the Erasmus Prize Award and the laureates Cassese and Ferencz is available on the website www.erasmusprijs.org.

Huizinga Instituut
Spuistraat 134
1012 VB Amsterdam
www.huizingainstituut.nl

PROGRAMME SEMINAR
RECORDING MASS VIOLENCE,
NOVEMBER 11, 2009

MORNING
PROGRAMME



9.30
Registration

10.00
Welcome
ERIC KETELAAR, DEPARTMENT
OF MEDIA STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM.

10.15
CORNELIA BRINK,
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITÄT
FREIBURG, GERMANY
Photographs of Nazi concentra-
tion camps as visual evidence
of genocide in judicial settings.
The case of the Auschwitz trial
in 1964.

VENUE: FILMMUSEUM, VONDELPARK 3, AMSTERDAM



In 1964 Lili Zelmanovic, a former inmate of the Auschwitz concentration camp now living in the USA, was summoned as a witness to the Auschwitz trial in Frankfurt. At the trial 22 men were charged with murder or with aiding the murderers.

Zelmanovic brought with her ca. 200 photographs stuck in an album. These photographs had been taken in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, presumably by a former member of the SS. They documented the selections that took place at the camp of Birkenau from May to July 1944. The case of the Frankfurt trial shows that and how the gaze of the accused, the judge and the witness differed, while all looked at the same photographs. Visual evidence as demanded in a courtroom setting and the memory these pictures evoked in the witness did not fit together. Though doubtlessly documenting the events in Birkenau, the photographs and the witness' commentary were at last of no use for the trial.



MORNING PROGRAMME

11.00

Comments

FRANK VAN VREE,
DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY
OF AMSTERDAM

11.15

JANN TURNER, JOURNALIST
AND FILM DIRECTOR,
SOUTH AFRICA

Special Reporting. The experience of covering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) for SABC TV's weekly Truth Commission Special Report

The experience of being a journalist recording the event, whilst also being a participant in the truth commission process. Jann Turner will show TRC footage – all shot during the TRC by SABC cameras for Truth Commission Special Report.

12.00

Comments

FRANCES GUERIN,
DEPARTMENT OF FILM STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF KENT

12.15

Discussion

12.30

Lunch break

(boat trip through the canals of Amsterdam – for invited guests only)

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME



Chair

JULIA NOORDEGRAAF,
DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF
AMSTERDAM.

14.00

SIR GEOFFREY NICE, FORMER
SENIOR TRIAL ATTORNEY AT
THE YUGOSLAVIAN WAR CRIMES
TRIBUNAL AT THE HAGUE

The powerful but sometimes quite unforeseen and unappreciated results of audio visual exhibits and other imagery of the trials at the Yugoslavian War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

VENUE: KNAW, NETHERLANDS ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 29, AMSTERDAM

14.30

MIRKO KLARIN, DIRECTOR OF
THE SENSE NEWS AGENCY
Memory of injustice: breaking a hole in the wall of denial.

The lecture addresses the role of recorded images of mass violence and severe injustice in creating the ICTY and the importance of documenting and reconstructing the tragic events in the Former Yugoslavia. The aim of the documentation is to prevent denial and to de-legitimize national myths, coming to terms with past crimes and promoting the distant goal of reconciliation.

15.00

Comments

NANCI ADLER, CENTER OF
HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE
STUDIES, AMSTERDAM

15.15

Tea

15.45

NATAŠA KANDIĆ, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF HUMANITARIAN
LAW CENTER, BELGRADO
The Impact of ICTY proceedings and audiovisual documentation on public opinion in the region of former Yugoslavia.

16.30

Comments

SELMA LEYDESDORFF, ORAL
HISTORY AND CULTURE,
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM.

16.45

Discussion

17.00

Drinks



HUIZINGA INSTITUUT

Centrum voor Holocaust-
en Genocidestudies

Onderzoeksschool
voor
Cultuurgeschiedenis

Research Institute and
Graduate School of
Cultural History



THE SEMINAR RECORDING MASS VIOLENCE is free of charge and open to staff, PhD-students and students of the organising institutions, invited audiences from other institutions and to members of the general public. Pre-registration is required to attend. To register, please send an email to huizinga-fgw@uva.nl mentioning your name and affiliation and stating that you will be attending the whole day or the morning session / afternoon session only. Please wait to make travel arrangements until you have received confirmation of your registration.

MORE INFORMATION on the seminar is available at the website of the Huizinga Institute:
www.huizingainstituut.nl.

Huizinga Institute
Spuistraat 134
NL-1012 VB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
tel. ++ 31 (0)20 525 4433
huizinga-fgw@uva.nl
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