

TRACES: THE MATERIAL RESIDUE OF MIGRATION

Traces aims to provide a showcase for cutting-edge research and practice that explores the material residue of the movement of individuals and communities around the world. Contributions will be commissioned from scholars and practitioners working within, across and between disciplines, geographical areas and time periods. We are open to theoretical, empirical and practice-based studies (or a combination of these) that speak to an informed, but not discipline-specific audience. The following research questions are intended as guidance:

1. What (material) traces are left by the movement of individuals and communities around the world? What happens when the traces left by different waves of migration come into contact with one another?

We might understand these traces in personal or familial terms (photos, souvenirs, correspondence, ephemera, domestic objects, personal documentation, heirlooms, etc.); on an institutional or archival level (e.g. public documents, textbooks and curricula, linguistic conventions, museum collections); or in the world around us (for example, architectural, archaeological, or geographical traces).

2. What are the effects of advances in the technological, scientific and interpretative processes by which traces are lost, uncovered or preserved? How have different technological, scientific and interpretative practices been applied in different contexts? What might be gained (or lost) from the application of such processes and practices to new contexts and for new audiences?

We are especially interested in contributions that explore how novel frameworks for research and practice developed in particular fields might be applicable in a wider context (e.g. forensic network analysis, theory and practice of digital heritage, archive theory, the concept of 'managed decay,' digital mapping technologies, forensic archaeology).

3. What is (or has been) at stake in uncovering or, conversely, kicking over the traces of migration in different contexts? Is it always possible (or desirable) to recover what is lost or gone? Or to preserve what remains?

Not all contexts are equal: it is important to bear in mind the stakes involved in uncovering, preserving or (sometimes) kicking over the traces of migration in the face of radically different practical realities (such as available resources, language skills, or access to technology), external pressures (state intervention; economic or political interests), or social practices (e.g., differing concepts of 'public' and 'private,' of the role of the academy or the family, or conventions of pride, shame or taboo).

Proposals for contributions (750 words) are invited by 1 May 2010. Please e-mail your proposal to Dr Kirsty Hooper: chomik@liv.ac.uk.

We also encourage proposals for monographs from scholars working on this theme.