SPEAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHY
13th Edition

Digitized Contestations: Family Photographs in the Struggle Over Cultural Heritage in Israel

For the onlooker, Israel may appear as the state of a united people and Israeli society politically coherent. Yet, the multiple range of photographic digital heritage initiatives currently prevailing in the country frame Israel as a zone of cultural conflicts. Especially since the 2009 election of a right-leaning government, Israeli citizens have turned to family photographs and digital technology to document, preserve, and popularise a range of cultural heritage creations, often unauthorized by the state or its official institutions. Pasternak will explain what has led Israeli citizens to use specifically family photographs in their attempts to diversify Israel's socio-political sphere and what it can tell us about Israeli attitudes towards the state of Israel about 70 years after its foundation.

Gil Pasternak's research investigates intersections of photography with political realities, especially in Israeli society, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and twentieth-century histories of Polish Jews. Recent publications include The Handbook of Photography Studies (2020), Visioning Israel-Palestine: Encounters at the Cultural Boundaries of Conflict (2020), and a special issue of the journal Photography & Culture titled "Photography in Transitioning European Communist and Post-Communist Histories" (2019). Since 2018 Pasternak has researched and supported community-led photographic heritage initiatives in zones of cultural conflicts.

Gil Pasternak
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JAN/31/2020
6:30pm
York Amphitheatre, EV 1.605
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Lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit speakingofphotography.concordia.ca

Speaking of Photography is organized by the Department of Art History. The series, now in its thirteenth year, is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor, with additional support from the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art, Ciel Variable magazine, and Château Versailles Hotel.