

CROSSING DISCIPLINES

Comparative Studies Colloquia on Interdisciplinarity

From Shopping to Display: Narrative's Role in Shaping Collecting History

Colloquium Leader

Elizabeth Emery, Ph.D.

Professor Elizabeth Emery will lead a roundtable discussion related to the concept of "collecting" in order to explore the ways in which the development of institutions such as museums is often determined by the stories told about them by collectors, institutions, and the press. Using the example of the Parisian Musée d'Ennery, a "house museum" that has showcased small works of Japanese, Chinese, and Indian art since the 1890s, we will consider the role played by competing narratives in fixing the shifting cultural status of objects, collections, and display practices. The roundtable should appeal to participants with an interest in cultural studies, museum studies, Asian Studies, nineteenth-century French literature and history, and women's studies.



Reading:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fzsf5ey66rnht/AAC15DSVzf6NP0-ixn_N-Aia?dl=0

Bal, Mieke. "Telling Objects: A Narrative Perspective on Collecting." In *The Cultures of Collecting*, ed. John Elsner and Roger Cardinal. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994. 97-115.

Photo (with picture of the museum at far right):

<https://montclairchss.smuqmug.com/Elizabeth-Emery/>



Elizabeth Emery is Professor of French at Montclair State University where she teaches medieval and nineteenth-century French literature and culture. She is the author of books, articles, and essay anthologies related to the reception of medieval art and architecture in nineteenth-century France and America, and has recently published books exploring the links between early photography and journalism: *Photojournalism and the Origins of the French Writer House Museum (1881-1914)* (Ashgate Press, 2012) and *En toute intimité... Quand la presse people de la Belle Epoque s'invitait chez les célébrités* (Paris: Parigramme, 2015). This presentation is related to an ongoing research project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (2016-2017).

Friday, February 26, 2016
2-4 p.m. in CU 301

The **Crossing Disciplines** colloquia promote the exchange of ideas across disciplines, fomenting the Comparative Studies Ph.D. Program's philosophy that topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies. For more information, contact Michael J. Horswell, Ph.D. — horswell@fau.edu

FAU
PHD IN COMPARATIVE
STUDIES
Dorothy F. Schmidt
College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University