

Call for Papers: Collages and Montages – A One Day Symposium Graduate Student Conference | Frankfurt am Main | 10 February 2018

Collage (from the french *coller* , or to stick, glue, paste, bond) began as a domestic activity and folk art, as a cutting and pasting of bits of paper into pictures. Modernists like Picasso and Braque innovated the *papier-collé* as a way to subvert traditional “fine art” norms, to transgress societal conventions, and to offer provocative commentary in an unexpected form. The contemporary rise of filmic montages likewise underlined selection, juxtaposition, and the piecing together disparate parts to create radical new wholes. Within the last 100 years, from Picasso’s *Guitar* to online culture to fan culture, montages and collages have seen many iterations in literature, film, art, architecture, pop culture, and mass media.

This conference is invested in the different media, modes, and mechanisms of montages and collages. With this conference, we hope to take up the notion, borrowed from Rona Cran, that collage’s basic principle is the experimentation with and the linking of disparate phenomena—and run with it.

This conference intends to work towards a broader, more flexible definition of collage, to think about collage across history, medium, discipline, and the arbitrary boundaries that determine “culture.” The multitudinous realities of collage demand this wide view: from the modernist technique of the cut up to contemporary digital image manipulation to modern sound production, visual, musical, and literary artists of the 20th and 21st century have created (and are creating) new wholes by remixing, cutting up, and gluing together existing parts. But it’s not only the artists: amidst inescapable mass consumerism, we collect and curate consumer objects into life-collages, into identities; in the age of social media—of Snapstories, Facebook “memory” montages, Twitter moments, Instagram PicStitches—collaging and montaging is ubiquitous, everyday, ordinary, done by everyone, all the time. Through modern advertising, mass media, social media, collage has crept out of art spaces into every-space.

We invite papers discussing a variety of material, literary, musical, filmic, and digital forms of collage. This might include the traditional objects of study, like the *papier collé* , photomontage, or filmic montage, as well as domestic composite objects/collaging like decoupage, quilts, shellwork, scrapbooks, assemblage; but it also includes *practices* as

objects of study, such as writing, making music, commonplacing, or the production of zines; we also invite engagement with collage as a theoretical principle and cultural practice, or as a strategy for navigating the demands of a globalized consumer culture.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Collage in/as consumerism
- Collage/ montage as/against capitalism, neoliberalism (collage as a political tool)
- Digital collage and montage (e.g. memes, gifs, youtube, Snapchat stories)
- Collage in/as literature
- Collage in/as music
- Collage and identity
- Urban experience as collage
- Historical perspectives of collage
- Viewing/ reading collage
- Filmic montage

This conference is organized by a small team of graduate students in the field of American Cultural Studies at the Institute for English and American Studies of the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. With the department's support, we intend to create a platform for students and scholars to exchange ideas and discuss collage as an artistic and cultural practice, to think about collage in the every-space. If you are a student (undergraduate, graduate, or PhD) interested in presenting a 20 minute talk at this conference, please submit a short proposal (max. 250 words) with a short biography and your current study program to submit.collageconference@gmail.com by December 20, 2017. There will be no conference fee. Technical equipment for presentations will be provided. Visit our website <http://collageconference.wordpress.com>

We will also be exhibiting collage and montage art pieces for the duration of the conference. If you are an artist who would like to display your work of collage/ montage/ assemblage, contact us at submit.collageconference@gmail.com