

Centre for Critical Heritage Studies
Small Grants Scheme
Final Report

Project: Recording it Ourselves: A Day Symposium Exploring Intersections of DIY Cultures and Heritage

Applicant(s): Kirsty Fife

Award: £2000.00

Project dates: Project planning occurred between 2019 and 2021. The final event was hosted on 20th March 2021.

Summary: (200-250 words):

Recording it Ourselves: A Day Event About DIY Cultures, Information, Archives and Heritage was an online event hosted via Zoom webinar on 20th March 2021. The event was a day long knowledge sharing event about DIY cultures (we define DIY as grassroots and political cultures/practices – examples include grassroots spaces; music and zine making; blogging; podcasting; housing co-ops; activism etc) and archives, information and/or heritage.

Examples include collections in libraries and museums (for example, the Riot Grrrl Collection by Fales Library, grassroots-centred collections, e.g. black political activism at the George Padmore Institute) zine fair organisers working with museums and heritage organisations (North West Zine Fest and the People's History Museum; Weirdo Zine Fest and the National Trust and Science Gallery London), and the setting up of physical and digital archives or libraries like the Manchester Digital Music Archive, Queer Zine Library, and Queer Zine Archive Project.

The event aimed to create a space to build networks, share knowledge and support each other in grassroots heritage work. Presentations were given by projects including Decolonising the Archive, Mother Tongues Collective, Queer Encounters Kings Cross, the Gezi Archive, Archiv der Jugendkulturen and the Refugee Archive at University of East London. Our final programme is available via our website here: <https://recordingitourselves.wordpress.com/programme/>.

A selection of recordings are also available: <https://recordingitourselves.wordpress.com/presentation-slides-and-recordings/>

Details of achievements against objectives:

Our initial funding application was to support an in-person event in 2020. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, we requested to change the event to a virtual one and used our funding to support administration, live captioning and fees for speakers. The event was extremely successful, despite the limitations of the virtual format. A total of 322 places were booked at the event. Zoom reports indicate that 171 people attended the event, with a maximum amount online of 124 concurrent users. Our post-event evaluation identified that the event was enjoyed by attendees, and we received equally positive feedback from speakers. Further impact is available by viewing the events hashtag here: https://twitter.com/hashtag/RIO21?src=hashtag_click&f=live

We aimed to connect people undertaking DIY and activist heritage projects, whether these were undertaken in professional, academic or community settings. We wanted the event to be engaging, accessible and informal, to encourage the development of connections and conversations that would continue to nurture heritage in these

settings. The feedback received and observation on the day indicates that we were successful in these aims, and the amount of attendees demonstrates the level of interest in this area.

For reference, read the blog here : <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/dis-studentblog/2021/08/20/event-round-up-recording-it-ourselves-by-kirsty-fife/>

Future dissemination plans:

We have uploaded a selection of presentations and slides on our website here:

<https://recordingitourselves.wordpress.com/presentation-slides-and-recordings/>. Alongside this content, we prepared a list of resources which have also been published. We plan to continue to work as a collective and coordinate future events including skills sharing workshops later in 2021 or in 2022.

Any income from other sources:

N/A