



Dr. Natalia Otrishchenko

Syllabus

Voices of/in the City: Oral and Public History in East Central Europe

Course description: Oral history as a scientific method, as a source of our knowledge about the past, and as a public initiative during last decades has gained considerable popularity in East and Central Europe. It became institutionalized in different ways within academia and spread beyond scientific community as a tool for finding answers about who we are and how we talk about our past. Through interviews with the witnesses and co-creators of historical events we not only fill the “blank pages” in narratives about the past or provide “voices” of men and women, but also learn to talk, listen, understand each other. Such conversations might help us to make visible different perspectives and experiences, power relations, ethical dilemmas. Oral history became diversely tangled with public history and often it is displayed in urban environment.

The seminar will focus on the “unpacking” of three interconnected adjectives, which are often used with the word “history”: oral, public and urban. Based on theoretical readings and examples of various projects from the region of East Central Europe (mainly from Poland and Ukraine), we will focus on methodological, ethical and practical challenges of collaboration between academic and public oral history. We will discuss what are possible advantages and pitfalls of using oral history interviews in your research, what voices can we hear with the relation to the issues of power and responsibility, and how oral history changes urban spaces. At the end of the course you are expected to propose an outline for a project in the field of public urban history based on the materials of one of Polish oral history archives.

As a result of this seminar you will acquire a “toolbox” of analytic frames, research methods and presentation formats useful for research in any field of study, cultural practice or urban activism.

About the instructor: Natalia Otrishchenko holds PhD in Sociology and leads the “Urban Stories” project at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv, Ukraine. She graduated from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (2012) and PhD program at the Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (2015). Natalia studied in Poland, Slovenia and the U.S., participated in research projects coordinated by University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, and Lund University, Sweden. She was a tutor at the research studios during “Novyi Lviv” (2015) and Slavutych (2016) Urban Summer Schools and provided oral history workshops for participants of various public and educational initiatives.

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Structure of the course:

1. From People, To People: Intersection between Oral and Public History

- Hilda Kean and Paul Ashton, "People and their Pasts and Public History Today," in *Public History and Heritage Today. People and their Pasts*, ed. Hilda Kean and Paul Ashton (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 1-19.
- Patricia Leavy, *Oral History: Understanding Qualitative Research* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 3-25.

2. Oral History: Methodological and Ethical Notes

- Oral History Association, "Principles and Best Practices: Principles for Oral History and Best Practices for Oral History." Last modified October, 2009.

<http://www.oralhistory.org/dooral-history/principles-and-practices/>

- Jane C. Richardson and Barry S. Godfrey, "Towards Ethical Practice in the Use of Archived Transcribed Interview," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 6(4) (2003), 347-355.
- Paul Thompson, "Towards Ethical Practice in the Use of Archived Transcribed Interviews: A Response," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 6(4) (2003), 357-360.
- Movie "Oral History of the 20th Street", Saskatoon, Short Documentary Film 2012. (Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTxQlqz9qE>)

3. Public History: Empowering Knowledge? Experts and Audiences.

- Cristian Fleck, Andreas Hess and E. Stina Lyon, "Intellectuals and Their Publics. Perspectives from the Social Sciences," in *Intellectuals and Their Publics. Perspectives from the Social Sciences*, ed. Cristian Fleck, Andreas Hess and E. Stina Lyon (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009), 1-16.
- Rose T. Diaz and Andrew B. Russel, "Oral Historians: Community Oral History and the Cooperative Ideal," in *Public History. Essays from the Field*, ed. James B. Gardner, Peter S. LaPaglia (Malabar: Krieger Publishing Company, 2006), 203-216.
- Jerome De Groot, *Consuming History. Historians and Heritage in Contemporary Popular Culture* (London: Routledge, 2009), 17-30.

4. To Put History into Urban Setting: How, Where, and for Whom?

- Bettina Furnée and Ian Horton, "Private Voices in Public Places. Using Oral History in Site-Specific Text-Based Art," in *Oral History and The Visual Arts*, ed. Linda Sandino, Matthew Partington (London: Bloomsbury, 2013), 35-43.
- Michael Frisch, *A Shared Authority: Essays on the Craft and Meaning of Oral and Public History* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1990), 225-238.
- Case study – Pidzamche area in Lviv:

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/lia/researches/pidzamche/spaces-places/>

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/exhibitions/mobile/pidzamche/>

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/publichistory/educational-projects/?newsid=1377>

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/publichistory/educational-projects/?newsid=1436>

5. Towards the New Paradigm of Urban Historical Research: What's Next?

Presentation and discussion of students' projects.

Based on oral history materials from Poland you are expected to outline and present (1) the main idea of your project, (2) target audience, (3) method and (4) space of communication, (5) possible challenges.

Resources:

Examples from Poland:

<http://www.karta.org.pl/> – Fundacja Ośrodka KARTA – independent organization of documentation and spreading of knowledge about the modern history of Poland and Central and Eastern Europe.

<http://www.dsh.waw.pl/> – “Dom spotkań z historią” – public institution from Warsaw, dealing with the history of Poland and Central and Eastern Europe.

<http://www.audiohistoria.pl/> – Archiwum Historii Mówionej – Oral history archive of “KARTA” and “Dom spotkań z historią.”

<http://adj.ifispan.pl/wydarzenia-1> – Archiwum Danych Jakościowych – Archive of qualitative data of Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, PAS.

<http://www.nac.gov.pl/> – Narodowy Archiwum Cyfrowy – National Digital Archive.

<http://teatrnn.pl/> – “Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN” – independent cultural institution from Lublin dealing with cultural heritage and education.

<http://lwowprzedwojenny.eu/index.html> – Lwów oczami świadków historii – Oral history of interwar period and WWII in Lviv.

<http://www.pk.org.pl/panoramakultur/node/2440> – Oral history project „Pojednanie przez trudną pamięć”, “Reconciliation through Difficult Remembrance. Volhynia 1943”.

<http://pracownia.audiosfery.uni.wroc.pl/category/mapa-dzwiekowa-wroclawia/> - The sound map of Wrocław, the Soundscape Research Studio.

Examples from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia:

<http://www.lvivcenter.org/en/ust/> – Archive of interviews “Urban Stories” collected for the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe.

<http://oralhistory.org.ua/> – Розпад Радянського союзу. Усна історія незалежної України, 1988-1991 – The Breakdown of Soviet Union. Oral history of Ukrainian independence, 1988-1991.

<http://www.db.ichistory.org/archive/> – База даних архіву Інституту Історії Церкви УКУ – Project of the Institute of Church History at Ukrainian Catholic University “Profiles of Fortitude: Oral History of the Underground period of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 1946-1989.”

<http://www.istpravda.com.ua/videos/2014/04/26/142537/> – 1986: “Чорнобиль. Пряма мова” – installation with art and oral history project “Chornobyl: Direct Speech.”

<http://www.nashapamias.org/archive/home> – “Беларускі архіў вуснай гісторыі” – Belorussian archive of oral history.

<http://oralhistory.ru/> – Архив мемуарных бесед “Устная история” – The archive of biographic conversations “Oral history.”

