

## Call for papers

### Tekst, bilde, lyd og rom (TBLR) / Text, Image, Sound, Space Norwegian Doctoral School

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, The University of Agder, The University of Bergen, The University of Oslo, The University of Stavanger, Nord University, and UiT the Arctic University of Norway.

PhD Training Seminar, May 6-7, 2025 Senate House, University of London

### Material Clues: Sensing, Witnessing, Investigating

“Though reality may seem to be opaque, there are privileged zones – signs, clues – which allow us to penetrate it,” historian Carlo Ginzburg wrote. Pictorial marks, dust particles, textual fragments, indeed, all sorts of details, however infinitesimal and seemingly insignificant, Ginzburg noted, are not mere trifles to be ignored in analysis, but allow one to conjecture the larger patterns and processes which they are part of and pay witness to.

Ginzburg’s thoughts closely echo more recent voices that challenge the epistemic and methodological stakes of critical scholarship today. These voices question established paradigms of critique by emphasizing how sensitivity to specific incidents is indispensable for making sense of the evasive forces that put up the world we inhabit. Rather than seeking to deconstruct representations as the surface effects of obfuscated ideologies, they commit to close sensorial attunement with material processes and technological mediations as well as infrastructures. Here, interpretation is supplemented by *investigation* understood as a “hyper-aesthetic” mode (Fuller & Weizman) that aims to (re)construct the genesis of events based on available evidential clues. Alongside the conventional emphasis on discourse, they aim to read history, and indeed politics, by paying attention to how artifacts may act as *material witnesses* (Schuppli) to contesting truth claims.

The aim of this doctoral training seminar is to explore the methodological insights such key concepts as sensing, investigating and witnessing can offer to students of the arts and literature. How does the emphasis on incidents and material processes reframe interpretive methods, and with what kinds of consequences? What alternative forms of critique does the ethos of construction afford? How might the very idea of politics of doing research become reappraised?

### Program

The program will consist of plenary key-note lectures (60-minute presentation, 30-minute discussion) and group sessions. Students are expected to prepare position papers on the core readings and key concepts ahead of the seminar (further instructions will be provided to the selected participants after the application deadline).

### Keynote Speakers

Prof. Matthew Fuller, Goldsmiths, University of London Prof.

Susan Schuppli, Goldsmiths, University of London

Guest Researcher: Julia Nueno Guitart, Goldsmiths, University of London

#### Core reading list:

Matthew Fuller & Eyal Weizman, *Investigative Aesthetics: Conflicts and Commons in the Politics of Truth*. Verso, 2021.

Carlo Ginzburg, "Morelli, Freud and Sherlock Holmes: Clues and the Scientific Method,"

*History Workshop Journal* 9:1 (1980): 5-36.

Susan Schuppli, *Material Witness: Media, Forensics, Evidence*. MIT Press, 2020.

#### Working language:

English.

The number of participants will be limited to 16.

#### Application Process:

Those who would like to attend should fill in the application form by the 17<sup>th</sup> of March latest (roughly 300 words).

#### Credits:

2/5 ECTS. Participation and presentation will result in 2 ECTS, working over and submitting an edited version of the presentation (10-12 pages) after the seminar, will yield an additional 3 ECTS. Every PhD student having completed the course will be eligible for a signed and authorized course diploma.

#### Hotel:

Hotel reservations will be made by the participants themselves. Up to three nights will be reimbursed (up to 135 £ per night) for students from the institutions participating in TBLR. Hotels run by chains such as Travelodge and Premier Inn in the Bloomsbury and King's Cross areas present an affordable and predictable choice (e.g., Travelodge London Covent Garden, Premier Inn Holborn, Premier Inn Goodge Street).

#### Meals:

Lunch every day, and dinner Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

#### Travel:

PhD students are expected to cover their own travel expenses.

#### Texts:

Reading materials will be made available one month before the seminar.

**Deadline for application:** 17<sup>th</sup> of March

Applicants from TBLR should submit form available on: <https://www.ntnu.no/tblr>

Any questions should be directed to  
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or Ina Blom ([ina.blom@ifikk.uio.no](mailto:ina.blom@ifikk.uio.no))