

From: Lee, Hee Jin <hxl706@psu.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 8, 2019 10:31 AM
Subject: Re: MSP meeting, next week, Wed, Jan 30

Dear colleagues,

The Migration Studies Project (MSP) would like to invite you to our meeting next week, **Wednesday, February 13, 12-1:00 pm in Sparks 7a**. The meeting features **Dr. Michelle Bae-Dimitriadis**, Assistant Professor of Art Education at Penn State University, presenting on "**Decolonial Storied Cartography: Refugee Youth-led Mobile Media in Action**".

Abstract:

This presentation is about an ethnographic account of the Karen tribe refugee youth-led mobile oral stories as a counter-cartography of Buffalo, NY. Their desire-based mobile storied cartography emerged from their dislocated/dispossessed experience in the U.S. colonial city, which explains their limited trajectory of daily lives. Their lived experience of the urban ghetto led to a community-initiative mobile drift in the city, which is viewed not merely as an opportunity of learning about the city, but also, more importantly, as a potential to decolonize the existing European colonial cartography with their oral stories and site specific-bodily acts. Moving away from a damage-centered research, I adopt the desire-centered research to bring an alternative understanding of refugee youth in relation to the dislocated land where racial/class/ economic segregation is apparent. Drawing on critical race theory and critical geography and media studies, I will discuss the following questions: 1) how is the relationship between geographic domination and the refugee girls? 2) How does the refugee girls' mobile storied cartography as decolonial desire to create a subversive narrative to make their social lives visible? 3) How does their mobile app push against the boundaries of conventional understanding of refugee youth and what counts as art curriculum and pedagogy?

Bio:

Dr. Michelle Bae-Dimitriadis' research and writing is on art and media cultural production of minoritized girls. She is interested in the potential value and importance of nontraditional/ informal art education curricula, programs, and institutions in the lives of minoritized girls, particularly focusing on immigrant and refugee girls. Her interdisciplinary research interest spans girl/youth culture, globalization and Asian contemporary arts, intersectional feminist approach, community-oriented art/media practice, social justice and urban education, and critical geography. Her current research has been on Karen-Burmese refugee girls' counter-cartography through creating their own mobile oral stories in relation to the land in Western New York, concerning history, environmental racial justice, and geography. Her interdisciplinary research informs her teaching in contemporary visual cultural education and diversity, children and youth culture, as well as feminist art practice and criticism.

Through her teaching, she has worked to bring university students into the local community to engage in community-based art and media teaching practices. Much of this work has been with refugee youth communities on the Westside of Buffalo, NY. Her prior teaching experience includes K-12, undergraduate, and graduate visual arts education. She earned her Ph.D in art education at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and also served as a visiting assistant professor. Before joining Penn State, she was a member of the Art Education faculty at SUNY-Buffalo State. Michelle is a recipient of the SUNY Faculty Diversity and Educational Equity Program research award (2010-2011), the SUNY Nuala Drescher Award (2015), and the NAEA Women's Caucus Mary Rouse early career research award (2017). She has presented her research in numerous international, national, and local conferences such as the National Art Education Association (NAEA), American Educational Research Association (AERA), the International Society of Education through Art (INSEA), the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), the Bergamo Conference on Curriculum Theory and Practice, the International Early Childhood Conference, the International Girlhood Conference, and the Nordic Digital Youth Culture Conference. etc. She is the invited editor of the special volume titled "Girls From Outer Space: Emerging Girl Subjectivities and Reterritorializing Girlhood" in the Journal of Cultural Studies<-> Critical Methodologies, 2017. She published a book "Girls, Cultural Productions, and Resistance" (co-edited with Olga Ivashkevich, 2012, Peter Lang). She has published a number of book chapters and peer-review journal articles in the field of art education, education, media studies, and women and gender studies. She received E.O. Smith Arts & Humanities Faculty Development Research Grant in SUNY Buffalo State (2017-2018) and National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) Research Grant (2018-2019).

We hope to see you there!

Kind regards,

Heejin Lee, on behalf of MSP